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Hammond to lead 'from my knees'

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP and local reports) — "Lord, help me to lead the North American Mission Board from my knees," new NAMB president-elect Geoff Hammond told 250 NAMB staffers during their first meeting together on March 22.

The day before, NAMB's board of trustees unanimously elected Hammond as its new president. Supporters have called him a missionary's missionary and a church planter's church planter.

"As the result of you and your work, I want Southern Baptists to fall in love with missionaries all over again," Hammond told the NAMB employees, who gave him two long standing ovations.

Nigerian-born, the youngest of five children, and a third-generation missionary, the 49-year-old Hammond called his new job at NAMB "way, way bigger than one man."

He replaces Robert E. "Bob" Reccord, who resigned in April 2006 under a cloud of questions about his management style and the agency's expenditures. Reccord was selected as the first NAMB president after messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) consolidated the Home Mission Board, the Radio and Television Commission, and the Brotherhood Commission.

"We're going to work hard to be the premier mission agency for reaching North America for Christ," Hammond said. "No one else can do it like we do — in the U.S., in Canada, and in the territories. God has called us to work as a team."

Hammond said he wanted NAMB employees to think "ethnic, bi-lingual, people groups and with a worldview."

"What you do is not just for the North American Mission Board or Southern Baptists. What you do is for the Lord God Almighty," he said, "and the people we serve are not the ones we see everyday."

Missionaries are the "special forces," Hammond said. "They live in the same nation we do, but in different cities and towns and with different license plates. (T)hey are pulled in all the different ways and directions we are pulled."

Hammond sounded a tone of partnership when he said he would emphasize cooperation among various SBC entities, as well as foster closer relationships with state conventions, local associations and local churches.

"Jesus died for the church," he said. "I believe in the local church but I also believe in cooperation in missions in order to carry out the Great Commission. I believe the Cooperative Program is still the most effective way to support missions."

"I'm grateful to be a Southern Baptist, and I'm a Southern Baptist by choice. You can tell that by my accent," he joked, referring to his mild but obvious British accent.

England is still home today for his sister and mother, who once told Hammond when he was a young boy that "being a missionary's kid won't get you to heaven, son."

Hammond said he was born in a Southern Baptist mission hospital in Ogbomosh, Nigeria in 1957. As a teenager, he found Christ at a John Ankerberg



NEW PRESIDENT — North American Mission Board (NAMB) Interim President Roy Fish (left) congratulates new NAMB President Geoff Hammond after a unanimous trustee vote on March 21 to call Hammond. Hammond addressed the agency's employees the following day at NAMB headquarters in Alpharetta, Ga. (BP photo by John Swain)



**NORTH AMERICAN
MISSION BOARD**

crusade in Harare, Zimbabwe. After studying at Spurgeon's College in London and at Southwestern Baptist Seminary in Ft. Worth where he earned his doctorate, he served as an intern, assistant pastor, and mission church pastor for the First Church, Dallas.

He has served as both a NAMB and International Mission Board (IMB) missionary, and a professor and church planter in Brazil, where he served with wife Debbie, who was an IMB journeyman missionary.

Hammond also served as a director of missions in Springdale, Ark., leading an association that, during his tenure, started its first new churches in 15 years.

Prior to his unanimous election as president-elect of NAMB, he was an executive and church planter strategist with the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia convention.

"I've been fortunate to live all over the world. I've had the privilege of helping plant churches on four different continents," he said, reminding NAMB employees that North America is not the largest continent in the world.

It doesn't matter, he said, whether a missionary is fully funded, partially funded or one of NAMB's Mission Service Corps missionaries.

"What counts is whether you're doing mission work. If you're a fully funded missionary and still not leading people to Christ, not planting churches or

not doing ministry-based evangelism, you're not a missionary."

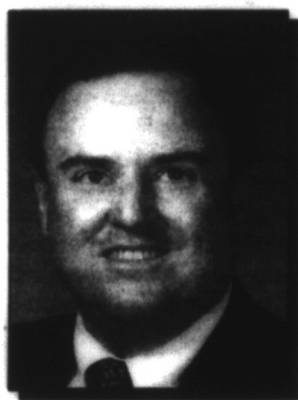
Hammond said he dreams of the day when a Southern Baptist is witnessing to someone who speaks Farsi or Arabic and says, "Let me call up NAMB and see what resources they can give me for witnessing to this person," but he added that NAMB must continue learning to contextualize, not just translate.

Mentioning NAMB's headquarters building in Alpharetta, Ga., Hammond said he wants to create an even stronger missionary culture and mindset in the building. "I want us to think like missionaries in this building. When people come into this building, I want them to immediately realize that we're in touch with missionaries across North America."

Bill Curtis, chairman of NAMB's board of trustees, told NAMB employees, "I believe with all my heart that God has given us the man who has met every one of our criteria, and who is equipped, called and committed to leading the North American Mission Board toward what God wants it to be."



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Got a spare \$19.25 million?

Yawn. Here we go again: "Have you heard? Proctor and Gamble is full of Satan worshippers. The company president said so, on television! Don't believe it? Just look at their logo!"

A statement similar to that is going to cost four Utah residents \$19.25 million. That's the amount Proctor and Gamble, the nation's largest consumer products company, has been awarded by a federal jury in Salt Lake City.

Unless you have a similar amount of money from which you don't mind soon being parted, perhaps you should take heed.

First of all, the age-old rumor about Satanism, Proctor and Gamble, and its famous moon-and-stars logo is a lie. Pure and simple. If you repeat it, you're a liar. If you're a Christian and you repeat it, you'd better check up on what the Bible has to say about false witness.

The mess in Utah began when Randy L. Haugen circulated another person's

Satanism rumor about Proctor and Gamble through an automated phone message system. As distribution of the rumor multiplied beyond anything Haugen probably could have imagined, a version of it inevitably turned up at Proctor and Gamble headquarters in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Companies take their public image seriously. "This is about protecting our reputation," Jim Johnson, Proctor and Gamble's chief legal counsel, told Associated Press.

Another rumor that never seems to die is the old saw that the late, famed atheist

"THERE'S A RUMOR THE MINISTER HAS SOLD HIS SOUL TO THE GROUNDHOG!"



Madalyn Murray O'Hair is working to get all Christian programming removed from television. Again, not true. Such a feat would be hard to accomplish from the grave.

The latest variation of the endless O'Hair tale involves James Dobson, founder of Focus on the Family. So rampant is that rumor that the Focus on the Family web site carries a special disclaimer that Dobson and Focus on the Family are not involved in any way in authenticating and distributing the O'Hair rumor.

Simply put, you can't believe everything you hear and read — especially on the

Internet. It is a rare week that the offices of The Baptist Record fail to receive a frantic e-mail or phone call about the latest threat to Christianity. All of them — all — turn out to be rumors.

Christians should be smarter than that. It does not elevate our Kingdom work nor glorify our Savior to spread baseless rumors and indulge ear-tickling lies. Such behavior actually diminishes our witness by proving that we're no different than the world when it comes to truth, gossip, and rumor-mongering.

This is especially the case when there are so many ways open to us to check out these rumors. The first way is to visit the company's web site or call their toll-free customer service telephone number. Chances are, you won't be the first call they receive.

Secondly, there are many good Internet sites (not necessarily Christian) that research and refute such rumors. Two such sites are www.snopes.com, and <http://urbanlegends.about.com>.

Anyone with a computer and two minutes of free time can avail themselves of these free services.

Thirdly, the mass media are frequently full of articles and reports that explode these rumors. All we need to do is pay attention.

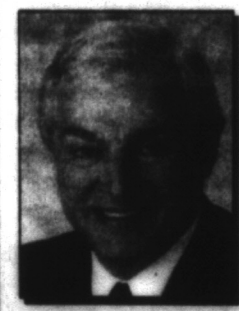
Don't fall for these rumors, some of which are undoubtedly designed and promulgated by detractors with the intention of making Christians look bad. Any amount of time we devote to such fruitless activities takes away from the time we could be accomplishing Kingdom work.

If we're not focused on Jesus and Kingdom work, then why are we Christians?

GUEST OPINION:

Know the answer

By David Jeremiah
El Cajon, Ca.



If someone asked you, "Of all the religions in the world, what makes you think you've figured out which one is right?" would you know the answer with confidence? Peter said to "always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15).

You'll grow unshakable in your faith depending on how much of the Bible you know and how obedient you are to it.

• Knowing God's Word gives assurance of salvation. Bible study has many benefits. Do you ever wonder if you're really saved and going to heaven? We can't help others come to Christ if we're insecure in our own spiritual condition.

The Bible says, "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life" (1 John 5:13). God wants us to know that we have eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ; and His Word ("these things I have written to you") is the means by which He gives this assurance.

How do we know we've been forgiven of sin? How do we know we're children of God traveling toward heaven? Because God said so. As we get into our Bibles and discover what God has to say, it strength-

ens our faith and reassures our souls. Romans 10:17 says, "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

• Knowing God's Word defeats Satan's attack. Ephesians 6:17 tells us that the Bible is our Spirit-given sword for warding off Satan's attacks and claiming victory in spiritual combat. Some people are tempted by one thing and others by another.

If you're tempted to lose your temper, memorize a verse like Proverbs 15:18: "A wrathful man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger allays contention." If you're prone to depression, memorize verses like Nehemiah 8:10: "The joy of the Lord is your strength." If you have problems keeping a clean mind, try Philippians 2:5: "Let

this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." Or if you're frequently afraid, learn the secret of 2 Timothy 1:7: "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

Whatever your sin or weakness, there are verses in the Bible for you — verses to wield against Satanic attacks. The secret to victory is finding those verses, committing them to memory, and meditating on them until they get into your spiritual bloodstream.

• Knowing God's Word enables us to witness to others. A plan of systematic Bible study and memorization can give you confidence so that when the opportunity to witness comes along, you know what to say because your mind is filled with the Word of God.

When Scripture is inputted into our life, it seeks an outlet. When we're thrilled with the Word, we want to share it. The Bible says, "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

• Knowing God's Word helps us know our heavenly Father. Knowing God's Word helps establish intimacy with our Heavenly Father — and what a confidence-booster that is! Paul says, "For my determined purpose is that I may know Him — that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly ..." (Philippians 3:10, Amplified Bible).

God reveals himself through His Word; and when we read the Bible, we are meeting with the Master.

Jeremiah is the founder of Turning Point for God, and senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, Calif. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press. For more information on Turning Point, visit www.TurningPointOnline.org.

IMB: Lottie to exceed \$150 million for 2006

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — International Mission Board (IMB) trustees rejoiced during their March 19-21 meeting in Memphis that the 2006 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is projected to exceed the goal of \$150 million, which would be a record.

Trustees appointed 49 missionaries, affirmed evidence of greater Southern Baptist involvement in the West Africa region, and heard a challenge to embrace change to reach the world's unengaged peoples.

David Steverson, IMB treasurer and vice president of finance, reported the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is projected to exceed the \$150 million national goal for 2006. A final report will be released after the May 31 close-out date for the offering receipts.

Steverson expressed thanks to Southern Baptists for their sacrificial giving and growing passion for sharing the Gospel with unreached people groups through the offering.

In 1888, the first offering of \$3,315.26 funded three missionaries' work alongside Lottie Moon in China, he recalled. Today, the offering — named for Lottie Moon — continues to help send and support missionaries to reach all peoples for Christ.

Trustees appointed 49 new missionaries March 21 during a service at Kirby Woods Church in Memphis. The latest addition of missionaries brings the total number of overseas personnel to 5,160, including more than 4,000 long-term missionaries on the field.

In other business, IMB Personnel Committee Chairman Paul Chitwood said that the ad hoc committees revisiting a baptism guideline and prayer language policy for missionary candidates, both adopted in November 2005, had concluded



TAKING THE FIELD — Forty-nine new international missionaries were presented during their appointment service by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board March 21 at Kirby Woods Church in Memphis. (BP photo by Steven Beckham)

their work and reported to the Personnel Committee. Their recommendation will be presented to the full board in May.

West Africa

Following a year-long campaign to highlight mission efforts in West Africa, regional associate Roger Haun reported how God is moving in the region.

Through regional mobilization summits, stories and various promotional materials, the region now has 300,000 prayer partners. More than 200 churches attended West Africa summits in Florida and Missouri. In the process, about

20 churches adopted people groups. More than 120 other churches made some type of commitment to help the region.

"The response has been phenomenal," Haun said. "We've been very pleased by the number of Southern Baptists who have responded. It's been beyond our wildest expectations."

Trustees appointed three missionary couples to the region during the Memphis meeting. By the end of this year, the region expects to receive more new missionaries than in the last three years combined, Haun said.

The region has the world's largest number of unreached people groups of fewer than 100,000 people. IMB personnel are giving priority to reaching all people groups of 100,000 and more throughout the world and, therefore, need church partners to step up and engage many of those smaller groups still unreached, such as in West Africa.

Embracing change

In order to reach more unengaged people groups, IMB President Jerry Rankin contended Southern Baptists must be willing to embrace change.

"The changes in our churches, our denomination and American society are apparent," Rankin said. "It is obvious we are living in an era of global change that is continuing to open many unprecedented doors of opportunity to share the Gospel."

By the end of the decade, Rankin hopes to see 10,000 Southern Baptist churches involved in strategic partnerships overseas. Other goals include expanding the missionary force from a little more than 5,000 to 8,000 and engaging unreached people groups -- but first, Southern Baptists must identify and let go of strategies, programs and methods that no longer are relevant in today's society, Rankin said.

Amendment endangered

BOSTON (BP) — In a move that could complicate efforts to pass a constitutional marriage amendment in Massachusetts, state Sen. President Robert E. Travaglini — an amendment supporter — resigned March 21 and was replaced by an amendment opponent. Travaglini's resignation in order to take a private-sector job is significant because as Senate president he presided over joint sessions of the House and Senate (constitutional conventions) that considered amendments. In January he resisted pressure from "gay marriage" supporters and allowed an up-or-down vote on the amendment, which passed. But the amendment must pass once more in order to make the 2008 ballot, and Sen. Therese Murray — who succeeded him and supports homosexual marriage — now will preside over any future constitutional conventions. Meanwhile, New Jersey's same-sex civil unions law took effect Feb. 19, but so far homosexual couples don't seem too interested in it. In the first month of the law only 219 couples applied for a civil unions license, according to preliminary figures published by the Associated Press. Another 10 couples who had civil unions licenses from other states filed paperwork to reaffirm their relationship, AP said. New Jersey, Vermont, and Connecticut are the only three states to recognize civil unions, which grant homosexual couples most of the legal benefits of marriage. California has something similar but calls them domestic partnerships. The New Jersey Supreme Court issued a ruling last year ordering the legislature either to legalize homosexual marriage or civil unions. Legislators chose the latter.

Looking back

10 years ago

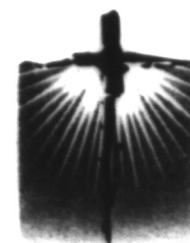
Gov. Kirk Fordice on March 27 signed legislation authorizing the Mississippi Department of Mental Health to purchase the property of Clarke College in Newton, closed in 1992 after a long run as the only Baptist-affiliated junior college in the state.

20 years ago

Sunshine Church, Pearl, loses its sanctuary to fire March 29. Investigators rule arson as the cause. Church members, undaunted by the blaze, vote a new name for the church — Park Place — and prepare for new growth.

50 years ago

James L. Sullivan, native Mississippian and executive secretary-treasurer of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, will deliver the dedication address at the new Baptist Book Store at the corner of North President and Amite Streets in Jackson.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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SEARCH AND RESCUE

On Tuesday morning, March 20, 2007, the announcement came over the news that Michael Auberry had been found. Michael is the Boy Scout who while camping with his troop had wandered away and gotten lost in the mountains. For several days, the national media had put their spotlight on this one lost boy. Hundreds of searchers descended on the area and search and rescue rigs had come from the entire region combing the hills and hollows, the mountains and the ravines looking for this one boy. Beyond just the area where they thought he was lost, the intensity of the search had expanded through an Amber Alert in case he had been taken by someone and was far beyond the region. Helicopters, dogs, professional rescue teams, police, and rangers all became a part of the search effort.

On Tuesday morning when the announcement was made that he had been found, everywhere the news cameras turned there were huge smiles and even tears of joy. One lost boy had been found, rescued, and the outcome was healthy and happy. Sometimes in this day of satellite imagery, incredible aircraft monitors, and global positioning systems, we forget that people can get lost, but they do. When they are found, we are reminded of the great joy that comes to the finder, the found, and everyone who hears the news.

It is no wonder that Jesus took this incredible, emotional, exciting, and ageless experience to help us understand what it is like to be outside the family of God — to be lost. In Luke 15, we have three moving pictures of the lost being found. There is a lost sheep, a lost coin, and a lost boy. In each of the stories, three common threads flow helping us to understand being lost and being found.

First, there was an evaluation. As with the boy who was lost at scout camp, in each one of the cases there was something of great value missing. The herdsman had lost a sheep and, of course, it was worth a great deal. A woman had lost a coin, and a father had lost a son. In each case unless found they were virtually irreplaceable.

Many of us in the church may have lost sight of the tremendous value of just one soul. Jesus helps us understand how valuable a soul is when it is ours. As He said, "What shall a man profit if he gains the whole world and loses his soul or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Even more incredible than one soul outweighing all of the world's



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

power and wealth is the fact that Jesus demonstrated how much one soul is worth to Him as He went to the cross and died just for you. It is amazing to contemplate.

A second thing that is woven through all three stories is the expectation. There was a search involved. The herdsman would leave the 99 and go to try to find the lost sheep. There are times when the 99 are so demanding that little or no attention can be given to the lost. The woman who lost the coin began to stir around and change everything in the house in order to find the coin. With the prodigal, it is worth the time and thought to visit with the father and watch as his eyes scan the horizon looking for his son.

In the case of Michael Auberry everybody was looking — the other scouts, the leaders, friends, families, his mom and dad, his church group, and people he had never even heard of were all searching for him. What would happen if the sensitivity level about lost people and the expectations of the entire body of Christ would be raised to a level that you could see it flashing in our eyes, hear it in our voices, and feel it from our hearts that we are looking for the lost?

The third element that flows through all three of these incredible stories is a celebration that takes place. The sheep, the coin, and the boy are all found and euphoria broke out among them.

Call the neighbors, crank up the party, and strike up the band for the lost has been found. The family of God has reason to celebrate when one soul comes to Jesus. We have the privilege of joining in with the joy of heaven because the lost have been found.

One of the interesting details of the search and ultimately the rescue of the young Boy Scout is the fact that he or at least his family credited a book that helped him to survive and be found. It is a fact that each of us who has been found has experienced the delight of being returned to the Father's home and heart, and we have a book that played an important and vital role in our rescue. The Word of God points us toward home, but it also points those of us at home toward a world that is lost. Today ask God to give you the privilege of being a part of the rescue unit that finds one lost soul.

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1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

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Homosexual rights group pickets Mississippi College

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Five protesters among about 28 people demanding equality for homosexual, lesbian, and "transgendered" people at Mississippi College (MC) in Clinton were arrested March 22 after being warned that they would not be allowed to come on the Baptist-affiliated school's campus.

The protesters were members of Soulforce's Equality Ride 2007, which is touring the country to protest policies at Christian schools that they allege discriminate against homosexuals, lesbians, and "transgenders" — people who believe they are members of the gender opposite their physical indications.

Michael Eide, a student at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg and the organizer of the MC stop on the Equality Ride route, told a small group of onlookers gathered on College Street just beyond the north boundary of the campus that being homosexual and Christian "aren't mutually exclusive."

Eide was the first protester to be arrested for moving from the public sidewalk along College Street on to the MC campus. The school's administration, with the backing of the school's trustees, declined to allow the protesters to enter the campus out of concern for the disruption of the school day and because the group's stated goals are contrary to positions held by the school and the Mississippi Baptist Convention with which the school is affiliated.

Mississippi College's Student Handbook defines premarital sex, extramarital sex, and homosexual activities as sexual improprieties that can result in disciplinary action by the school.

Eide said such a policy is "obviously discriminatory" and the protesters wanted homosexual MC students to know, "You are not alone."

Stephen Krebs, a Soulforce organizer from Washington, D.C., told the crowd that MC students and alumni had expressed support for the protest at the school. However, when pressed by a reporter for The Baptist Record for the names of those supporters, Krebs hesitated and said he would have to go "off the record" to reveal the names because of a "climate of fear." The reporter declined his offer to go off the record.

Krebs approached the reporter later and gave him the name of one person he said was a graduate of the school who supported the protest.



PROTEST ARREST — Kevin Nelson (left), a Mississippi College student from Clinton, talks with Soulforce protester Amy Scott of Azusa, Ca., as Scott is arrested and led off the school's campus by Clinton police officers during a Soulforce protest March 22 against what the protesters termed the school's discrimination against homosexual, lesbian, and "transgendered" students. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Protester Amy Scott of Azusa, Ca., was arrested after she walked on to the campus and confronted MC student Kevin Nelson of Clinton, who was standing with friends and observing the protest.

"She said, 'Thank you for coming and listening,'" Nelson said. "I told her, 'We love you but I do believe you're on the wrong path. I'll be praying for you.' She said, 'I believe I'm on the right path.'"

MC President Lee Royce said prior to the protest, "Mississippi College seeks to be a university recognized for academic excellence and commitment to the cause of

Christ, and to ensure that we fulfill our mission we make every effort to provide our students a quality Christian education in an environment where inquiry and truth are valued. In order to do this we do not allow political action groups to hijack our daily operations to present their 'view' because they feel their voice is not being heard.

"Soulforce is an aggressive challenger to the positions held by Mississippi College, the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and Southern Baptist churches. We will not allow our campus to be 'taken over' even for a day by those using bullying tactics to promote their agenda."

Couple testifies to hesitancy, certainty of God's mission call

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — Five years ago, Jack and Joni were living the American dream — great careers, comfortable home, predictable future.

Their dream changed radically during a short-term mission trip overseas. "God revealed to me the needs among unreached peoples," said Jack (last name not used for security reasons). "On a mountaintop overlooking God's creation, yet seeing the lostness, I knew that I needed to be a part of God's plan for the nations."

Joni admitted she wasn't sure about becoming a missionary. "Then I attended a missions meeting at our church," she recalled. "A mother of two who had been a (two-year missionary) journeyman said, 'Being a missionary is not a sacrifice but an honor — an honor that God has called you to work for Him all day, every day.'"

Now, with their two daughters, Jack and Joni are going to share the Gospel with an unreached people group in a tough part of Asia. They were among 49 new Southern Baptist missionaries appointed March 21 by International Mission Board (IMB) trustees during a service at Kirby Woods Church in Memphis.

Another new missionary couple, Don and Jana, also struggled with giving up the things America has to offer.

"I was scared, scared of sacrificing the American Dream for our children,"

Jana told more than 2,000 missionary family members, friends, church members, and other Tennessee Baptists gathered at the church, "but God gently reminded me that He had created those children with their special gifts and abilities, and that He was going to develop them. They would miss nothing in the center of His will."

"Overwhelming peace flooded over me, and I was ready to go."

Don and Jana will join two other new missionary couples headed for West Africa, the special regional focus of Southern Baptists' prayers in 2006.

The new workers range in age from 23 to 60. Many of them come with previous experience as short-term missionaries. Two former career missionary couples were reappointed for service. They come from a variety of backgrounds and professions: pastors, teachers, full-time moms, an insurance agent, a purchasing manager, a personal trainer, a veterinarian.

They will take the Good News of Jesus Christ to lost people across Asia, Africa, South America, and the Middle East. The new appointees bring the total number of IMB overseas workers to 5,160 worldwide, including more than 4,000 long-term missionaries.

Brief testimonies by other new missionaries outlining their journey of obedience to God included these:

• "I'm the legacy of women who live for God's glory," said Laura, who told of some of the women who guided her to Christ. "For God's glory Louisa shared the Gospel with me. For God's glory Heather pointed me to the Scriptures. For God's glory I joyfully go to pour my life into some of the least-reached women of the world (in Central Asia)."

• "As a youth, I struggled to believe that God was relevant to my generation, that I had as much to gain in following Him as early Christians," said Stephanie, who is going to Asia. "As a journeyman, I found Him to be intimately involved and of infinite worth, and became passionate to see my neighbors know His love. It's His intimate concern that sends us."

Her husband Chris recalled meeting Asian villagers who were "terrified when they saw photographs of a funeral, because they feared that the spirit of the dead person could harm them. We're returning to Asia to declare the wonderful news of the God who is able to deliver them from the bondage of fear."

• Larry and Melinda Ewing spent two years in Hungary, working among young adults who openly declared, "We are a faithless country." Yet students who came to their apartment to practice English and enjoy their hospitality eventually became a house church.

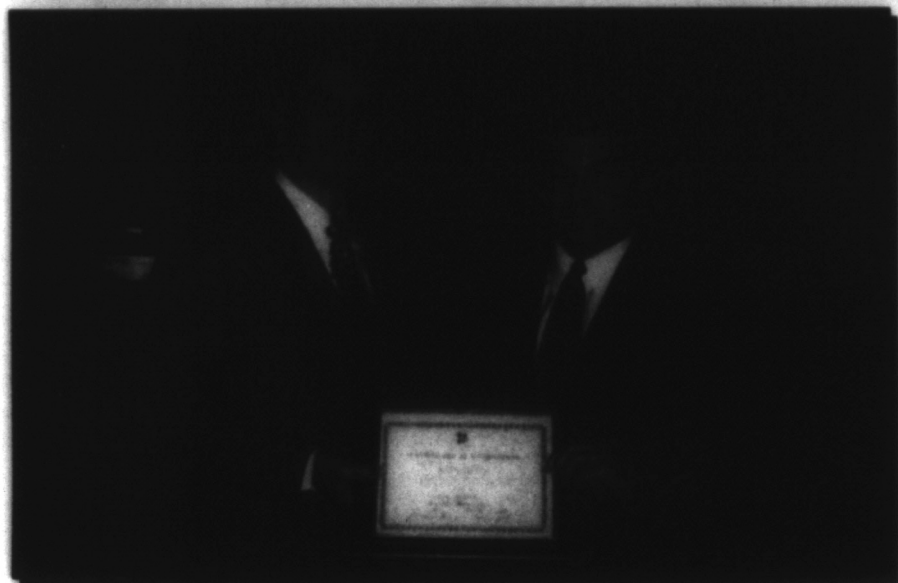
"Now, by God's grace, we are selling our home and business to join God as He establishes His righteousness among Hungarian university students," Larry said.

• "Walking the dusty, overcrowded streets of a city in South Asia, I saw people without hope, worshipping idols made by their own hands," said Lelanette, who is returning there with her husband Mark. "I thought, 'God, how can You bear to watch these people worshipping their idols?' He reminded me, 'How can they call on Me without believing? How can they believe without hearing? How can they hear unless someone tells them?'"

• "On a hot day in Mexico in the summer of 2005, I baptized a woman who had been beaten by her husband the night before because of her faith," related Jason. "The woman's obedience to God challenged me: What was I willing to give up to be obedient to Christ? My wife and I have heard God's call and with our children are going to West Africa."

• Paul told of the day 61 years ago when his grandmother in Taiwan received Christ through the witness of American missionaries there. "After three generations, so did I," he said. "Now God is sending me to serve in Asia so others, as I did, can come to know Jesus Christ."

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Deacon Ordination, First Church, Kosciusko



2. Valentine King and Queen, Tangipahoa Church, Summit



3. Youth Bible Drillers, Fredonia Church, New Albany



4. Children Bible Drillers, Fredonia Church, New Albany

1. **First Church, Kosciusko**, ordained Kevin Pullin as deacon Mar. 4. Shown are Pullen and Barry C. Corbett, pastor.

2. **Tangipahoa Church, Summit**, held a youth fund raiser, and Glenn Matthews and Rhonda Reeves were crowned Valentine king and queen. Shown are Reeves and Matthews.

3. **Fredonia Church, New Albany**, held its youth Bible drill Mar. 18. From left, Jared Carter, Seth Cobb, Maggie Cobb, Lindsey Kidd, Blake Conlee, and Michael Martin.

4. **Fredonia Church, New Albany**, held its children's Bible drill Mar. 18. From left, Cassie Thompson, Billy Eaker, Bailey Thompson, Gavin Aldridge, Abbey Robbins, Cason Robbins.

5. **Bovina Church, Vicksburg**, held a RA racer rally and raingutter regatta Mar. 17. The boys raised sponsorship money to be sent to the Honduras Children's Village. Shown are the participants.

6. **Women from Palestine Church, Plantersville**, recently took food and supplies to the Monroe County Home. Shown are the participants.

7. **Friendship Church, Brookhaven**: Easter cantata, Mar. 31, 5 p.m. and Apr. 1, 11 a.m.; Children's Choir presentation, Apr. 1, 6 p.m.; Easter services, 7 a.m. and 11 a.m.; no Sunday School or evening services.

8. **Kreole Ave. Church, Moss Point**: Easter cantata, Apr. 8, 10:45 a.m.

9. Golden Triangle Association is sponsoring a Northeast District Ladies Retreat Apr. 14, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at **Woodland Church, Columbus**. Allegra Brigham, speaker. Registration fee, \$20 (includes lunch) due by Mar. 31. For information, call (662) 327-6689 or 328-0766.

10. Janice Nichols, WMU director at **Calvary Church, Fulton**, led an Edwina Robinson special day emphasis, collecting a love offering of \$33, including pennies for the Memorial to the Missing in Jackson.

11. **Park Haven Church, Laurel**, is hosting its 4th annual drive through crucifixion Mar. 30-31, 7:30-9:30 p.m., at 3110 Highway 15 North.

12. **First Church, Collinsville**, will host the University of Southern Mississippi carillon in concert, Apr. 29, 6 p.m.



5. Royal Ambassadors, Bovina Church, Vicksburg



6. Women of Palestine Church, Plantersville

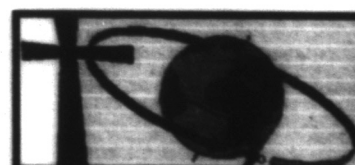
13. **Grandview Church, Pearl**, will have an egg hunt Mar. 31, 2-3 p.m., hosted by the youth for preschool and elementary children. The church will host Easter — A Celebration of Resurrection music, presented by the elementary, youth, and adult choirs Apr. 1, 6:30 p.m.

14. **First Church, Vicksburg**, is hosting Mark Lowry, singer, songwriter, and Christian comedian Apr. 12, 7 p.m. Tickets available at select Christian bookstores, **First Church, Vicksburg**, and by calling (800) 965-9324. For information, call (601) 636-2493, or by visiting www.premierproductions.com or www.marklowry.com.

15. **First Church, Jackson**, will present The Wonder of Easter Apr. 1, 3:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Complimentary tickets are available from the church music office and will guarantee seating up to 30 minutes prior to the concert. For information, call (601) 949-1918 or visit www.fbcj.org.

16. **Leaf River Church, Pineville**, will host a community-wide resurrection Easter egg hunt Apr. 7, 2-4 p.m., with refreshments served. The church will have its Easter cantata Apr. 8, 7 a.m., with fellowship afterwards. No evening services.

♦ ♦ ♦



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STATE CHANGES



1. Boles and family, Hebron Church, Smithdale

1. **Hebron Church, Smithdale**, has called Andy Boles as pastor, effective Mar. 14. Boles is shown with his wife Laurie and children, Ellis, Emma Grace, Easton, and Eli.
2. **Gore Springs Church, North Central Association**, has called Larry W. Haggard as pastor effective Mar. 4. Haggard and his wife Susie come from Moorhead Church, Mid-Delta Association. He is a graduate of Clarke College, Mississippi College, and New Orleans Seminary.
3. **Seminary Church, Beaumont**, has called Kenneth McLendon as pastor. He has done supply and interim work for a number of years, with his last pastorate being First Church, McHenry.

COLLEGE NEWS



2. BRMC makes gift to WCU's School of Nursing

1. Jan Grissom, a professional soprano who has sung at the Metropolitan Opera, will perform in concert Mar. 30 at 7:30 p.m. in the Smith Auditorium on the Hattiesburg campus of William Carey University. Tickets are \$10 general admission and \$5 for students. They will be available at the door or you may call in advance for more information to (601) 318-6175.
2. The William Carey University School of Nursing received \$100,000 from Biloxi Regional Medical Center (BRMC) recently to be used to advance nursing programs. Shown, left to right, are Tim Mitchell, chief executive officer for Biloxi Regional Medical Center; Tommy King, president of William Carey University; and Rob Briscoe, chairman of the BRMC Board of Trustees, during a check presentation by BRMC. For more information about the nursing program call (800) 962-5991 ext. 147 or (601) 318-6147.

Barna: Don't discount evangelical vote

VENTURA, Calif. (BP and local reports) -- If the turnout for the 2008 presidential election is anything like that of 2000 and 2004, born again voters will cast roughly half of all ballots, The Barna Group predicts.

"Born again Christians should not be underestimated. They represent half of Republican voters, two-fifths of registered Democrats, and one-third of independent voters," said David Kinnaman, the researcher who directed the study for Barna. "As the presidential primaries gear up and both parties try to attract the broadest group of voters, it will be to their benefit not to alienate the diverse Christian segment."

By examining 32 measures of religious commitment, belief, and activity, Barna found that while Republicans continue to attract the most born-again Christian voters, Democrats are gaining ground.

Republicans attract a disproportionate share of evangelicals, Barna found, and Democrats are much more likely to attract other religions.

"While one out of 14 Republicans is aligned with a religious belief system other than Christianity, the same is true for one out of every five Democrats," Barna said. "Among the non-Christians within the Democratic Party, two-thirds are atheists and agnostics."

Kinnaman warned that as presidential candidates pander to the evangelical voting bloc, their attempts at appearing religious are easily identified.

"Keep in mind that many Christian voters are increasingly skeptical of being played for political purposes," Kinnaman said. "Appealing to them must go beyond simply saying the right combination of messages or getting them to show up at the polls, but instead should genuinely connect with their perspectives and principles."

Through its five divisions, The Barna Group provides primary research, communications



Barna

tools, printed resources, leadership development for young people, and church facilitation and enhancement.

"The ultimate aim of the firm is to partner with Christian ministries and individuals to be a catalyst in moral and spiritual transformation in the United States," according to the Barna web site, www.barna.org.

REVIVALS & HOMECOMINGS

Alta Woods Church: 60th Anniversary Homecoming, May 6; Sunday School and choir rehearsal, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10 a.m., followed by covered dish luncheon.

Benton Church, Benton: Revival, Mar. 25-28; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Wayne Hudson, speaker; Ian Richardson, music; Charles Moore, pastor.

Cedar View Church, Olive Branch: Revival, Apr. 1-4; Sun., 8 and 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ryan Fontenot, Texas, speaker.

First Church, Magnolia: Revival, Apr. 15-18; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Billy Smith, Madison, speaker; Todd McDaniel, Wesson, music; Barry Ward, pastor.

Plainway Church, Laurel: Homecoming, Apr. 1; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Danny Henderson, Denham Springs, La., speaker; Harold Ishee, former pastor, testimony. No evening services.

Rose Hill First Church, Rose Hill: Revival, Apr. 15-18; Eddie Martin, speaker, Apr. 15; Brad Brownlee, speaker, Apr. 16-18.

Second Church, Kosciusko: Revival, Apr. 1-6; Sun., 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Quinton Mills, speaker, Sun.-Wed.; Skeet Davis, Thurs.-Fri.

Topeka Church, Jayess: Revival, Apr. 22-25, 7 p.m.; David Fortenberry, Brookhaven, speaker; Todd McDaniel, Brookhaven, music; Dale Authement, pastor.

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Questions brewing over 'beer with Bible'

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — "How about beer with your Bible?" That's the question NBC's Today show host Campbell Brown asked March 4 on national television to introduce a report titled, Beer and Bibles: New Churches Lure Young Members.

Featured in the two-and-a-half minute segment was Darrin Patrick, founder and senior pastor of The Journey in St. Louis, a Southern Baptist church with ties to the emerging church movement, the North American Mission Board, and the Missouri Baptist Convention — which loaned the church \$200,000 to help start a church planting center.

The emerging church movement is diverse and difficult to generalize. However, the mix of influences includes: postmodernism (a focus on sense-making through the various mediums of culture); Calvinism ala John Piper; and for some, Christian liberty, as granted by their scriptural interpretation, to drink alcohol and engage in other cultural activities that many Southern Baptists eschew based on opposing scriptural interpretation.

NBC spotlighted The Journey's Theology at the Bottleworks, a church-sponsored discussion group in a bar where alcohol is available to attendees.

"This isn't just a brew pub, it's a church," NBC reporter Jennifer London said, describing the room where the meeting is held. The "church" in reality is the Schlafly Bottleworks where The Journey reaches out to younger adults who might not consider going to a traditional church setting.

Patrick told Baptist Press he abstains from alcohol and that The Journey "doesn't personally encourage nor corporately promote the use of alcohol."

However, the reporter emphasized the link. "Followers say they may come for the beer, but they stay for the Bible," London said, "and back at the brew pub, it's about saving souls, one beer at a time."

Some attending the Theology at the Bottleworks gathering also made the connection between alcohol and the outreach effort. Erin Ryan, who accepted Christ at one of the meetings, told the NBC crew, "You sit down over a glass of wine or a pint of ale or something like that, and you can connect with people more."

NBC's focus on the novelty of the methodology obscured the apparent serious

approach The Journey has taken in reaching a cultural-generational demographic group. The Journey's strategy has helped the congregation grow from 30 to almost 2,000 since its 2002 beginning. Last fall it planted the Refuge Church in St. Charles, Mo. and it is assessing church start possibilities in Illinois.

Patrick, in e-mails to Baptist Press, was clear that beer was not a tenet of his non-traditional methodologies. Last December, The Journey's website included an invitation to "grab a brew, share your view" when attending the Theology at the Bottleworks meeting. A picture of people raising glasses of beer in an apparent toast appeared adjacent to an essay by Patrick on the church's website.

Patrick attributed the content to a secular website design company hired by the church. He told Baptist Press he had the alcohol-related verbiage and picture removed as soon as they came to his attention because "it does not reflect the values of our church."

Still, the church's unconventional means of reaching the lost might be shaping its internal culture as much as the church is shaping others. The bio of The Journey's mission pastor, Jonathan MacIntosh, mentions that he enjoys drinks with his wife "at the almost secret bar beneath Brennan's in the Central West End."

The Today show feature about The Journey was not the first time beer and the Bible garnered media attention. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch ran a lengthy article on its Sunday, Jan. 28, front page detailing the alcohol controversy associated with The Journey.

Referring to a Theology at the Bottleworks meeting, the Post-Dispatch article gave this description of the atmosphere: "In a back room at Schlafly Bottleworks in Maplewood, about 50 people gathered on a recent Wednesday night to talk rock 'n' roll.... Beer-stained wooden tables and the smell of hops complemented a free-flowing, spirited debate among hip young people in scruffy beards and T-shirts."

Patrick stressed that the Bottleworks ministry was a means to reach out to unchurched people in their cultural setting. Asked about negative perceptions and the number of biblical references that warn about the dangers of alcohol, Patrick told Baptist Press, "We don't believe that having a current event discussion at a bar is unbiblical."

"We try to choose venues for these events where unchurched members of our commu-

nity would feel comfortable," he said. "Others have taken place at restaurants, coffee shops, office buildings and cafes."

Patrick, who is vice president of Acts 29, an association of emergent churches, conceded that as a group, Acts 29 holds a "much more liberal view" of alcohol use than The Journey.

Some website material seems to support his conclusion.

The pastor of an Acts 29 church in San Diego (non-SBC), for example, claims on the Internet: "Beer is one of our core values. We enjoy it and like to drink it." Although the statement appears meant for humor, it seems to show a casualness of attitude about alcohol consumption.

Another Acts 29 church (also non-SBC) — the Seattle-area Damascus Road Church — sponsors a men's poker night for which gamblers are encouraged to bring beer. The website also states: "There is just something about having food on your plate and a drink in your hand that makes fellowship that much easier. Whether the food is healthy or fattening, or the drink is coffee or beer, we desire to follow Christ's example."

The alcohol issue goes straight to the top at Acts 29, whose president, Mark Driscoll — who is pastor of the Seattle-area Mars Hill Church — wrote in his book, Radical Reformation, that abstinence from alcohol is a sin. In a chapter titled The Sin of Light Beer, Driscoll explains that he came to this conclusion while preparing a sermon on the Lord's miracle at Cana where Jesus turned water into wine.

According to information published on the church's website, Mars Hill sponsored a New Year's Eve party that included a champagne bar. Mars Hill's website also advertises "beer-brewing lessons ... whenever a large group of (Mars Hill) men get together."

Driscoll is controversial also for once having the reputation of the "cussing pastor." However, as he recounted on his blog, he finally listened to a friend who helped him realize he was becoming known for "good theology, a bad temper, and a foul mouth," and he repented, starting with a public apology.

Patrick's SBC connections include the North American Mission Board. He co-chaired NAMB's Young Leaders Task Force with Ed Stetzer, a NAMB employee who is on the board of Acts 29.

Bibliocipher

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SIWYWLBYW C NDU
ZMSB UBZ, PIDS SICMHN
NBWOWY UW GWNCYW,
PIWM UW EYDU, AWVC-
WOW SIDS UW YWKW-
COW SIWX, DMG UW
NIDV IDOW SIWX.

XDYJ VVWOWM:

SPWMSU-LBZY

Clue: P = W

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: James Two: Five.

MS POSITIONS

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FBC BUDE IS A DYNAMIC and growing church in the Franklin Association. We are receiving resumes for the position of minister of music and/or youth through the date of May 1, 2007. All those who prayerfully would like to submit a resume should do so by mailing their information to FBC Bude search team, 235 Bude Baptist Rd., Bude, MS 39630.

LASALLE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION is accepting resumes for the position of Ministry Coordinator (aka DOM) through May 1, 2007. Resumes may be sent to Randy Ray, 452 Fellowship Road, Trout, LA 71371 or email: randyray@centurytel.net.

MINISTER OF STUDENTS and Recreation. Submit resume to Chatham Baptist Church, 1500 East Walnut St., Chatham IL. 62629 or jerryweber@insightbb.com.

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BON AIR BAPTIST IN RICHMOND, VA, seeks a children's minister. This person will direct a Christian education program for preschoolers, children, their parents and leaders. Candidates will have a passion for sharing God's love with children and families. Send resumes to searchteam@bonairbaptist.org and visit www.bonairbaptist.org for a job description.

Blue Mountain College student missionaries honored

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP and local reports) — The North American Mission Board (NAMB) is honoring eight U.S. colleges and universities with the Courts Redford Award for Excellence in Student Missionary Deployment during 2006. Honored as the top missions-sending campuses are:

- Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain, affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention.
- North Greenville University in Tigerville, S.C..
- Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo.
- Carson-Newman College in Jefferson, City, Tenn.
- Mercer University in Macon, Ga.
- Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Okla.
- University of Georgia in Athens.
- Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C.

"Blue Mountain College is pleased to be honored by the North American Mission Board," said college President Bettye Rogers Coward. "This award is a manifestation of the commitment the College has to missions. Tracy Moser, Director of the Baptist Student Union, has provided exemplary leadership in promoting the involvement and engagement of BMC students in missions. Blue Mountain College students are truly making a difference through service."

Under the auspices and coordination of NAMB, colleges and universities mobilized more than 1,600 student missionaries in the United States, Canada, and their territories last year. Student mission opportunities are promoted via Southern Baptist campus ministries, Baptist colleges, and local Baptist churches.

In Mississippi, the program is spearheaded by the Collegiate Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB). Mississippi Baptist student missionar-



STUDENTS IN SERVICE — Students from the Blue Mountain College (BMC) Baptist Student Union (BSU) spent their spring break at Lake Michigan, just outside of Chicago, with the McHenry Baptist Church and Christian School. Reuben Raquel, a 1991 BMC graduate who serves as the pastor, invited the BMC group up for spring break to lead a youth rally, prayer-walk, and church-spruce-up project. Members of the team included (front, from left) Tracy Moser, BSU Director; Jocelyn Panter, Beth Short, Magan Weeks, Erin Anderson, Jessica Worsham, Ashley Waldrep, Taryn Wenzel, Jack Moser; (rear, from left) Chris Ferguson, Austin Kimbrough, Korrie Stanton, and Jason Webb. (Special photo)

ies typically lead the Southern Baptist Convention in numbers deployed.

"From the early beginnings of the summer missions program, Blue Mountain College has been significantly involved in sending students. A Blue Mountain student was involved in the first summer missions team to serve in 1947," said Weaver McCracken, director of collegiate ministry for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. "During 2006, as one of the largest groups from a single campus served, Blue Mountain reinforced its tradition of missions support and service."

"Credit goes to BSU director Tracy Moser and the students involved in Baptist Student Union for their ongoing support and promotion of SBC missions service."

Assigned to sites such as college campuses, beaches, national parks, inner cities, and rural communities, Baptist student missionaries obtain hands-on mission experience while supporting the evangelism and church planting strategies of local Southern Baptist churches and associations.

Students also utilize their personal interests, spiritual gifts, and talents as

they lead sports camps, worship services in resort settings, Bible studies at children and youth camps, outreach to multi-housing communities, and ministry to internationals, noted Donald King, national consultant for NAMB's student missionary deployment team, based in Alpharetta, Ga.

NAMB's award is named in honor of Courts Redford (1898-1977) who, in the summer of 1944, mobilized more than 70 students to serve across the country through the Southern Baptist Convention's Home Mission Board (NAMB's predecessor), birthing the student missionary strategy.

Redford recognized the value and impact students could have in evangelism and church planting, King said.

"Dr. Redford's legacy continues as NAMB's student missionary deployment team maintains his vision and commitment as they assist local churches and convention partners to deploy students across North America today," King said.

Redford served the Home Mission Board for 21 years (1943-1964), the last 10 years as chief executive officer.

More than 2,000 college students are needed in 2007 to share Christ in a range of settings, King said. The deadline to apply is April 20.

For more information on the Mississippi Baptist student missionary program, contact the MBCB Collegiate Ministry Department at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3299 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 299. E-mail: ppowell@mbcb.org. Interested parties may apply via the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board web site at www.mbcb.org.

For additional information on service opportunities through NAMB, visit www.answerthecall.net or call a mobilization specialist at NAMB, (800) 462-8657, ext. 6476.

Evangelical philosophers argue link between God, moral truths

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — The existence of objective moral values is evidence for God's existence, said Paul Copan, a philosopher and Christian apologist, at a meeting of the Evangelical Philosophical Society at New Orleans Seminary.

"There are certain moral truths that we all know," Copan, associate professor of philosophy and ethics at Palm Beach Atlantic University in West Palm Beach, Fl. "If objective moral values exist, then it is extremely likely that a Creator exists."

The society's meeting was held in tandem with the seminary's Greer-Heard Point-Counterpoint Forum on the topic of The Future of Atheism, featuring Alister McGrath of Oxford University in England and Daniel Dennett, a professing atheist from Tufts University in Bedford, Ma.

Copan, whose books defending the Christian faith include *True for You, But Not for Me*, and *How Do You Know You're Not Wrong*, said morality begins with certain self-evident principles upon which atheists and theists can agree.

Citing atheistic philosophers David Brink and Kai Nielsen, Copan said atheists also appeal to objective ethics and human moral awareness. Oxford evolutionary biologist Richard

Dawkins also contends that people can be good without being policed by God, Copan said.

In light of Romans 2, Christians should not be surprised when atheists live good, moral lives, Copan said. He quoted Dennett, who wrote, "People can be caring without a belief in immortality... A scientific materialist may be concerned about justice, beauty, and even religious freedom."

By virtue of being made in God's image, atheists are connected to God the Creator, whose character is the source and metaphysical foundation for morality, human worth and dignity, Copan said.

"Anyone can know that humans have certain moral rights, but a far more fundamental question is, 'How did they come to be that way?'" Copan said.

Naturalists have confused "knowing" and "being" — epistemology and ontology — by acknowledging certain truths but failing to explain why those truths exist, Copan said.

"Can the valueless, mindless, cause-and-effect physical processes of naturalism produce conscious humans with value and worth," he asked.

Copan cited naturalist's Colin McGinn's admission that, "We know that brains are the de facto causal basis

of consciousness, but we have, it seems, no understanding of how this can be so."

Theism offers a more natural and plausible explanation for why humans are "valuable, truth-seeking, morally responsible beings in a finely tuned, beautiful universe," Copan said. Humans have worth because they are the image-bearers of a good and personal God.

Although naturalists may live moral lives, naturalism itself undermines objective ethics and undercuts a motivation for morality, Copan said. He quoted Dennett again, saying that while moral norms "contribute to social cohesion," they are "illusory rule-worship."

Copan referred to naturalist Michael Ruse who said moral values are "an illusion of our genes to get us to cooperate with each other." Seeing moral impulses the same as other impulses — such as the impulse to eat or scratch — doesn't inspire the pursuit of virtue, Copan said.

Evolutionary ethics produce skepticism about a human's ability to know truth, Copan said, adding that Charles Darwin said, "With me, the horrid doubt always arises whether the convictions of man's mind which has been developed from the mind of the lower animals are of any value or are even trustworthy."

Ethical foundations, then, are undermined by "an evolutionary process that is interested in fitness and survival but not true beliefs," Copan said.

Theism offers a more plausible context for affirming human dignity than naturalism that puts moral objectivity and rational thought in question.

Copan cited the 1948 United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights to show that humans have an intrinsic understanding of human rights, regardless of religious convictions. He quoted French philosopher Jacques Maritain, one of the document's drafters, who said, "God and objective morality cannot be plausibly separated since God is the Creator of valuable, morally responsible human beings and is the very source of value."

Copan concluded by saying that a moral argument alone doesn't prove the existence of the Christian God but can be supplemented with other arguments for God.

"The moral argument points us to a supreme, personal, moral being who is worthy of worship and who made us with dignity and worth," Copan said. "He is a being to whom we are accountable and who could reasonably be called God."

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director

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GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.



Junior Girl Scout Troop 828 of Clinton delivered 282 boxes of cookies to The Baptist Children's Village. The girls sold cookies at Kroger, Baptist HealthPlex, Wal-Mart, and Celluar South. For the past several years this troop has asked customers to not only buy cookies for themselves, but to consider buying some for the BCV residents. The girls sold more for the BCV this year than ever before.

FEB. 24-MARCH 9

MEMORIALS

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& Ralph Perkins
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Mrs. Opal Vickers
Betty Dean Vickers
Mrs. Opal Vickers
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Ed Willis
Roy & Joy Cliburn
Dr. Noel C. Womack, Jr.
Dr. Lionel D. Jayroe
Elizabeth Wright
Mrs. Robert N. Walters
Mary Alice Yeatman
Hope Baptist Church

MARCH 10-25

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Mr. William B. Webb
James & Loyce Gardner
County Line BC
Bill Hayden
Mr. Nicholas J. Clones & Family
Liam Finnegan
Ms. Barbara Hayden
Mike & Cindy Mitchell
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Mr. & Mrs. E. J. Grisham Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Alex Ross
Mrs. Vangie Fields
Mrs. Sheila Rowley
Mr. Stacy Nolan's Adult III SSC

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Cato Baptist Church
Pearl Louise Anderson
Mark Hones
Linda Lea & Family
Peggy Toler & Family
Hazel Barnes
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Mrs. Jennie Brooks
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Mr. & Mrs. Carlos Knight
Mrs. Maxvon Bruce
The VanLandingham Family
R. L. Burrow
Mrs. R. L. Burrow Jr.
Mr. Vernon Craft
Mr. & Mrs. Davi Dixon III
& Family
Mr. Ron Crow
Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie Moore
Robin Crouch
Ms. Mary W. Knight
Charles Cummings
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Mr. Gordon Ellington
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas R. Woodward
Benji Estes
Danny & Jessica Ruth
Eula Ford
Mary & Morris Sorrells
Mrs. Noble Frye
Arlington Heights Baptist Church
P. C. Garrett
Mr. & Mrs. Clarence R. Brown
Earl George
Ms. Jeanette S. Hellum
Phillip & Era Lee Hilton
Vickie Graustham
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Calvin Hathorn
Oakvale Baptist Church
Floyd Hayman
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Kuykendall
Andrew Lee Haynes
Ms. Zoa Mae King



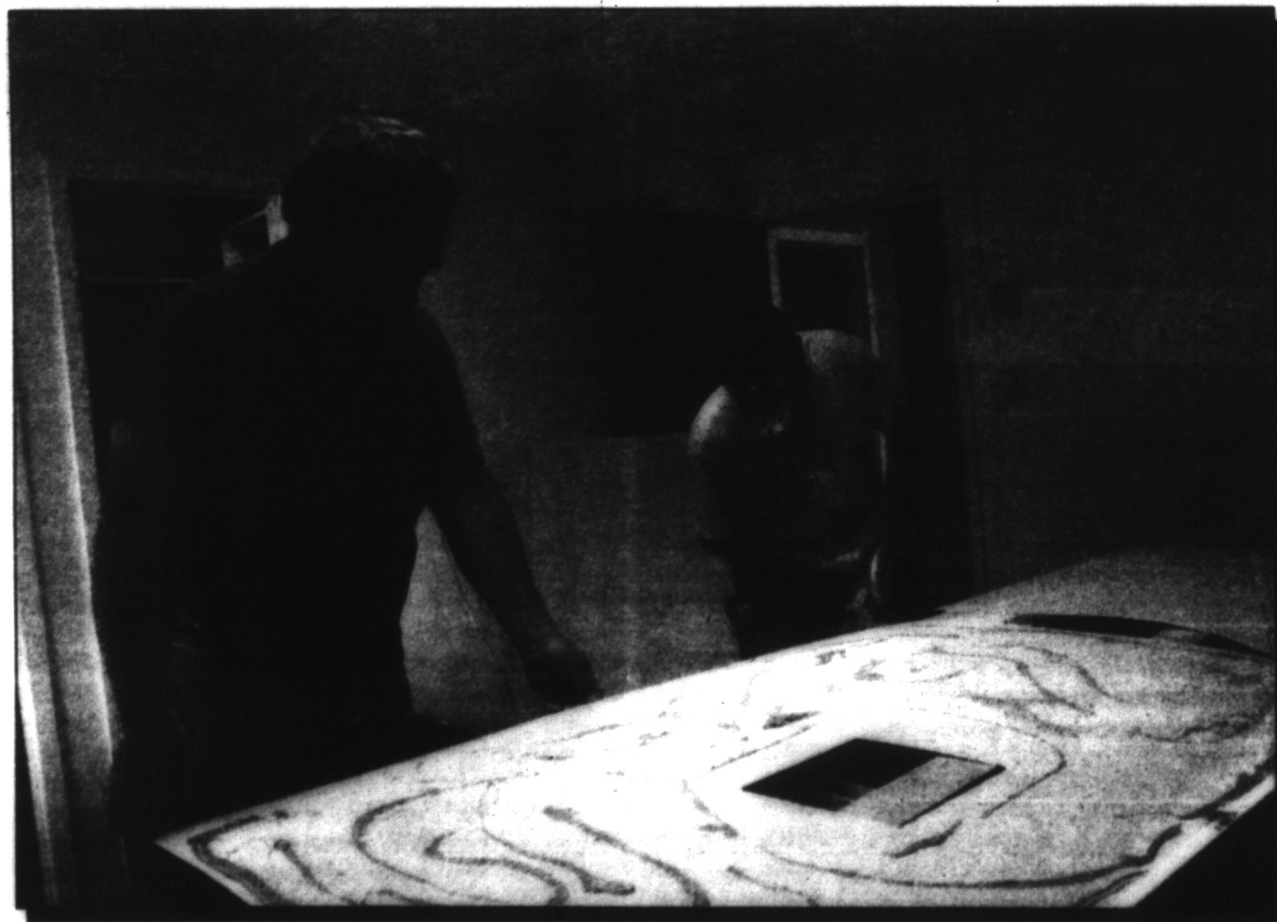
The youth of FBC Madison, under the leadership of Clay Stegall, volunteered at two BCV campuses during spring break. On The India Nunnery Campus, the students helped the grounds staff, assisted the BCV activities director and chaplain with a project. They will travel to the Dickerson Place campus in Brookhaven to assist staff there with several projects.

Mrs. Joy R. Holmes
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Mrs. Bill (Rosemary) Juch Hood
Mrs. Anita C. Criger
Ms. Barbara Ray Searls
Mr. & Mrs. William L. Colbert Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Paul S. Sellan
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Petty
Tocic & Tom Murry
Lisa S. Springer
Ashwak Ali Brown
Mrs. Carol Hudson
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Gwyn Huff
Mr. & Mrs. Wallace A. Clay
Brooks Hulm
Louie & Grace Huhn
Mr. & Mrs. W. J. Thompson Jr.
Maudie G. Hutchinson
Mr. & Mrs. Travis Cloud
Bill & Kristy Willis
John Hyneman
Graeber Brothers Inc.
Jessica Corine Jernigan
Shaqulak Baptist Church
Mr. Billy W. Whitefield
Lucille Scarborough Johnson
Max Parnell
Mr. Joe Joyner
Lauderdale Co Bapt Assoc
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Kelly Davis Lee
Ms. Billie C. McCully
Mrs. Weyenne "Sue" Lee

Mrs. Dottie Sloman
Henry James "Jim" Legge
Robert & Sue Wilkie
J. B. Lewis
Cato Baptist Church
James Ray Lape
Mrs. Maurice B. Beatty
Mrs. Laven Loflin
Mary, Jim, Opal & Casey Garrett
Kellie Madison
Mr. & Mrs. Troy L. King
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Mr. & Mrs. Larry Gnomi
Mr. & Mrs. Hubert Robertson
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Kenneth Middleton
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Bob Pace
Ms. Margaret Ann Finnie

Melinda Peacock
Ms. Zoa Mae King
Ms. Hazel Parritt
Dixie & Dick Kelly
Vivian Polk
Mr. & Mrs. Herman L. Dungan Jr.
Mr. H. O. Redmond
Mr. & Mrs. Reece Douglas Jr.
Bobbie Ross
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Hill
Craig Reid
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Rogers
J. V. Rando
Mr. Robert N. Stockett
Mr. Edward Earl Reynolds
Linda Hutchison
Mrs. Celeste C. Truitt
Edwin Reynolds
Unity Baptist Church
Laverne Robbins
Mr. & Mrs. Herman L. Dungan Jr.
Mr. Sidney Rye
Mrs. Vangie Fields
Mr. & Mrs. Don Fields
Walter Schelle
Ms. Zoa Mae King
Maded Selby
Barbara & James Criswell
Otha Sellers
Richion Woman's Club, Inc.
Mrs. Robbie Shows
Carroll County MHV Council
Crosby S. Simmons, Jr.
Sondra & Phil Wilkinson
John Skoon
James Robertson, Jr.
Clara M. Robertson
Lester & Brenda Robertson
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Faith SSC, Emmanuel BC-Grenada
Temple Baptist Church
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Lester, Brenda, Pat & Wally
Grace Vaughn
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Charles Wade
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Digestive Health Associates, P.C.
Elizabeth Joy Williams
Mrs. Daisy E. Aldridge
Ed Willis
Mrs. Libby Patterson
Mr. & Mrs. W. Wayne Wood
Patricia Mae Willis
Debbie & Bubba Lang
Elizabeth Windham
Ms. Nina J. Herbert
Rusty Sinn
Mrs. Gladys Windom
Ms. Rose Young
Rev. Jerry G. Wise
Mrs. Edwina M. Wise



Volunteers of Hopewell Church, Little Rock, (Newton Co.), continued the construction project on Memorial Cottage. These volunteers with many others are providing the labor to get this project completed.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Jesus Died for Us

John 12:12-15; 13:21,26-27; 19:16b-19,33-37

By Angie Boydston

I remember the first movie I saw about the life of Jesus. What a captivating experience for me. A person who could be human and yet perfectly divine was awe-inspiring. The visual images of Him being beaten and crucified still move me to great emotion. Those images played a big part in my salvation experience.

To think that Jesus, the holy and perfect Son of God, went through such suffering for me is often overwhelming. Can you imagine — someone died for me! Someone loved me enough to give His life. What Jesus did should provoke a response from us — one that includes awe, praise, and commitment.

John 12:12-15 begins the account of Jesus entering Jerusalem. It was the Sunday

before His crucifixion, Palm Sunday as we know it today. Many people were in town for the Passover Celebration. As Jesus rode into the city, a large crowd came to greet Him, shouting "Hosanna! Hosanna!" They waved palm branches in acknowledgement of Him, saying He came in the name of the Lord.

Verses 14 and 15 indicate that this scene was the fulfillment of earlier prophecy about Jesus' coming as the Messiah, riding a young donkey as a sign of peace. Though hailed the King of Israel by the crowd, He did not arrive in the manner some might have expected. There were no war-horses, crowns, or fancy carriages.

How do we respond to an encounter with Jesus, our King?



Boydston

With fear, apathy, excitement? Always our response should be one of praise and worship, acknowledging Him as our Messiah. Knowing Jesus is fully Lord and Man should remove all fear and should motivate us to adoration.

Soon after His triumphant entry into Jerusalem, Jesus gathered His disciples for the Last Supper. In John 13:21, Jesus' spirit was troubled about the coming betrayal by one of His own. He indicated in verse 26 who would be the betrayer. It is ironic that a gesture of friendship — Jesus offering him a piece of bread — should signal Judas Iscariot's betrayal of Jesus.

Verse 27 says, "Satan entered into" Judas as soon as he took the bread from Jesus. It was clearly the point of no return. Jesus told Judas to do quickly what he would do. And so Judas made his choice and therefore became a tool to accomplish Satan's plans.

For Jesus to be troubled by such a betrayal signifies his com-

plete humanity. Being also divine, He could sense the spiritual hardness and deadness produced by the sin in Judas. Jesus understands our complete humanness when we have a choice to make. He always provides a chance for us to renounce whatever we are involved in, but does not prevent us from it. The choice is always ours.

In the chapters after the betrayal, Jesus was condemned to death and crucified. Chapter 19, verse 17 sets the stage, with Jesus carrying His cross to Golgotha. As Jesus hung there, Pilate had a notice proclaiming Him "The King of Jews" posted on the cross. Remember that just a few chapters earlier the people had shouted this very acclamation to Jesus. Pilate meant something very different, but God intended for all to see His Son die as the king He is.

Though Jesus was a divine king, He was fully human in His death. His divine nature allowed Him to give up His life, and so verse 33 indicates the Roman soldiers found Him to be dead when they checked

on Him. However, one of them pierced His side with a sword to make doubly sure. John's eyewitness account of the blood and water that flowed from the wound is yet another indication that Jesus' death was truly human and very real.

According to 19:35, John expected the death of Jesus and this very flow of blood and water to lead people to faith in Christ as Savior. He testified of these things "so that you also may believe." Our response to His death should be strong belief.

When we stop to think about the painful death He suffered, we must realize that we put Him on that cross. More importantly, He chose to suffer that human death because of us. This knowledge should spur us to great response — praise, awe, and gratitude. It should also clearly lead us to a saving faith and a place in His kingdom.

Boydston is Preschool and Children's consultant in the Sunday School Dept., MBCB, and a member of Pinelake Church, Brandon.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Exercise Submission's Power

1 Peter 3:1-12

By Ivan Parke

1 Peter 3 opens with a Greek adverb translated in the same way. "Submission", therefore, remains the main theme from 2:13 to 3:6.

The Greek verb, translated "submit" or "be submissive" (hupotass), occurs six times in 1 Peter (2:13, 18; 3:1, 5, 22; 5:5). It is a military term that means "to line one's self up under." A different Greek verb, hupakou, means "to obey" (see 3:6).

In chapter 3, like chapter 2, Peter verified that Christianity is a "personal" commitment but not a "private" faith. Believers, although "aliens and strangers" in this world (2:11; see also 1:1, 17), do not avoid earthlings. God expects His followers to live righteously as they interact with all people, saved or lost (2:24).

1. Christian Conduct "Behind Closed Doors" (3:1-7)

Mark 1:29-31 reveals that Peter had a mother-in-law, thus a wife. As an experienced husband, he addressed wives (six verses) more than husbands (one verse). What he instructed them mirrors what the Apostle Paul wrote (see Eph. 5:22-33; Col. 3:18). Nevertheless, more people have quoted Paul; some who consider Paul "controversial" have not consulted Peter.

In verses 1-2, Peter charged wives to evangelize a pagan husband subtly, using lifestyle alone (see 1 Cor. 7:12-16). He characterized persuasive living with a prepositional phrase ("with fear" BKJV) and an adjective ("chaste"). The NIV rightly renders that prepositional phrase "reverence." The Greek adjective, translated "chaste,"



Parke

indicates "pure from every fault."

Verses 3-6 explain how to be pure and reverent. Wives should focus inward, not outward; developing their character rather than enhancing their appearance. "Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears

the Lord, she shall be praised" (Pr. 31:30; see also 1 Sam. 16:7).

Hairdos, makeup, clothing, and jewelry cost money, often excessive amounts. "In the sight of God," however, they do not matter (see 1 Sam. 16:7). He values "the hidden person of the heart with ... a gentle and quiet spirit" (3:4). He knows what is "imperishable" (unlike silver or gold - see 1:7, 18) and "precious" (3:4). The Greek adjective, translated "precious," also signifies "costly, expensive" (see Mk. 14:3). Makeup or outfit does not upgrade the heart of a person.

To motivate his readers, Peter cited Sarah, the "first lady" of God's people (3:5-6). Genesis 18:12 reveals that she respected Abraham, calling him "lord."

In verse 7, husbands become the focus. Peter charged them to exercise their authority with care. Women, being physically "weaker," are more vulnerable, i.e., easier to victimize.

To prevent spousal abuse, Peter urged "understanding." Dictators are never "considerate" (NIV).

Furthermore, Peter reminded husbands that their wives were spiritual equals. The Greek noun, translated "fellow heir," also appears in Romans 8:17, Ephesians 3:6, and Hebrews 11:9. Mistreating a fellow heir adversely affects personal prayer (its effectiveness). The Greek verb, translated "hinder," depicts "blocking the way."

2. Christian Conduct "Out in Public" (3:8-12)

Verses 8-12 close the section of 1 Peter that began in 2:13.

Verses 8-9 list seven qualities that "all [believers]" (3:8) — slave or free, married or single — should embody. Five qualities stuff verse 8: [a] "harmonious" (literally "same mind"), [b] "sympathetic" (literally "to suffer with"), [c] "brotherly [love]" (philadelphos — see also 1:22;

2:17), [d] "kindhearted" (see also Eph. 4:32), and [e] "humble in spirit" (see also 5:6). Collectively, these traits promote [1] denying self and [2] elevating others, necessary "ingredients" for unity in the Church. Contrasting qualities structure verse 9: [a] reluctant to retaliate and [b] ready to bless regardless (see also 2:23; Lk. 6:27-28). God blesses us with a secure inheritance (see also 1:4) AS we bless those who curse us.

Verses 10-12 quote Psalm 34:12-16, a psalm that David had composed. Its theme is "God Delivering the Righteous" (see especially vv. 4-8, 17-20, 22). "Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivers him out of them all" (Ps. 34:19). Peter used Psalm 34 to comfort his readers who were suffering unjustly. If they did what was right, e.g., to suffer without retaliating, God would rescue them.

Scriptures cited are from the New American Standard unless otherwise indicated.

Parke is Associate Professor, Dept. of Christian Studies and Philosophy, MC, and a member of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted.



Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to crop-

ping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

LifeWay chief: ministry first for SBC's publishing entity

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — As LifeWay Christian Resources examines its future it must consider itself a ministry first and a business second, LifeWay President Thom S. Rainer said recently during a presentation at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Reviewing the history of the Christian resource provider, Rainer noted that LifeWay has been self-supporting since its inception in 1891 as the Sunday School Board. Despite this legacy, which clearly has its advantages, Rainer said the Southern Baptist organization must always maintain a ministry focus.

"One of the dangers we have at LifeWay is that we are so focused on being a business that pays its own way, that we forget that our primary purpose is not revenue production, but it is to do ministry for the benefit of local churches, primarily in the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Because we are self-sustaining and self-supporting sometimes we act too much like a business. We are first a ministry and when we forget that, we have forgotten who we are, who we serve and who owns us," he said.

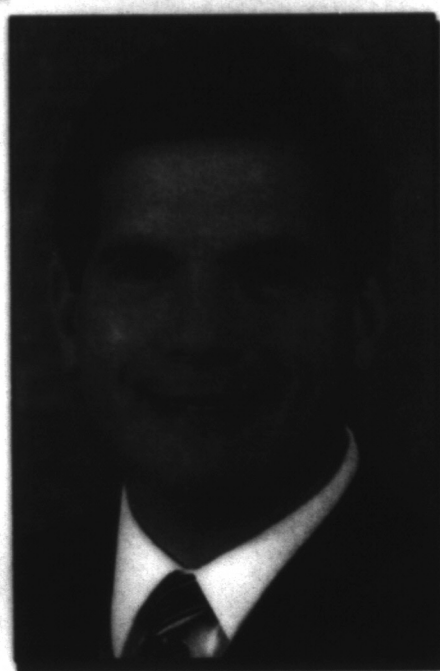
Rainer was on the Southern Seminary campus to present his vision for the future of LifeWay. Before beginning as LifeWay president Feb. 1, 2006, Rainer served for 11

years as founding dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth at Southern Seminary.

In addition to the challenge of maintaining a ministry focus, Rainer identified several other issues the organization must address to effectively minister to local churches.

"One of the challenges is our sheer size, bureaucracy," he said. "When you have an organization that has 3,000 full-time equivalent employees, and 7,000 total employees, there is a tendency to have an organization that is not nearly as streamlined as it could be. It is big, and sometimes it can be cumbersome. As a result, there are times when we respond like a bureaucracy, responding slowly or not responding at all."

Another challenge Rainer noted is meeting the needs of the numerous and varied constituencies within the Southern Baptist Convention.



Rainer

"I had no idea of the diversity of theological views, within orthodox theology, that makes up the Southern Baptist Convention," he said. "We have an academic constituency, such as this seminary. We have a constituency that thinks we cater too much to the academic constituency. It is a constant challenge to serve the Southern Baptist Convention, but that does not mean that we will not strive to do that."

In presenting a vision for addressing these challenges, Rainer said LifeWay must achieve biblical depth in its materials.

"LifeWay employees have heard it from me again and again: We must pursue biblical depth," he said. "It is a challenge to present a Sunday School lesson [with biblical depth] that people will cover in 30-40 minutes, but we are going to do it. Recently, we created B&H Academic. B&H Academic is important to me, because it will influence the influencers. It will influence

the pastors and lay leaders in the church. If we can have a small role in influencing the influencers then we will have made at least some contribution."

LifeWay, Rainer said, will seek to present this biblical depth in a relevant way, which is one of the reasons he founded the LifeWay research and ministry development department.

"There is often the assumption that to mention the word relevance means that you abandon biblical depth and a biblical framework," he said. "I will say that this can occur and often does. But, we have to touch the generations of today. We have to reach out to those who have not been hearing our messages in our churches."

"We also want to attempt to listen to our churches better. We do not want to be the organization that decides we have a product we want to dump on the churches. Instead, we want to be the organization that listens to where churches are and tries to respond to churches needs."

LifeWay must be unapologetically evangelistic, he said.

"I have a heart-burning desire to be an entity that reaches people for Jesus Christ," he said. "It is my prayer that — for the glory of God — when the ministry of Thom Rainer is done evangelism is something I will be remembered for emphasizing at LifeWay."

Report highlights federal government's obscenity failures

WASHINGTON (BP) — The federal government's battle against obscenity is insufficient to help families deal with pornography, a pro-family leader says in a new report.

Published by Concerned Women for America (CWA), the report takes a close look at the priorities of the Department of Justice and the FBI in prosecuting obscenity violations. Jan LaRue, former chief counsel for CWA, compiled the report.

"Anybody who keeps track of obscenity prosecutions knows

the stats show that it's not the 'priority' we've been told it is," LaRue wrote in the report. "It seems they're concerned that the First Amendment will self-combust if we make it a tad harder for the nation's morbidly obese porn addicts to feed an insatiable appetite."

LaRue's report looks at the 2008 proposed budget President Bush released Feb. 5. The new budget proposes \$25.4 million in program increases for the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section of the Department of

Justice — the division of the DOJ primarily responsible for enforcing obscenity laws. LaRue, though, wants Congress to require accountability from the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS). She suggested quarterly progress reports that account for how the increase in funds is being used.

LaRue's suggestion was prompted by the record of the CEOS in obscenity cases. She said the division reported 40 obscenity indictments between 2001 and 2005, but that total

consists of individuals indicted, not separate cases. Obscenity prosecutions are separate from those for child pornography.

"[LaRue's] article exposes a cancer that is eating away at the souls of our children and men and is devastating families," said Phil Burress, president of Citizens for Community Values, in a response on CWA's website. "Failing to enforce federal obscenity laws allows the harms of pornography to proliferate and destroy lives."

LaRue acknowledged the FBI offers A Parent's Guide to Internet Safety on its website, www.fbi.gov. The guide includes answers to frequently asked questions, such as: "My child has received an email advertising for a pornographic website, what should I do?"

The guide says, "Generally, advertising for an adult, pornographic website that is sent to an email address does not violate federal law or the current laws of most states. In some states it may be a violation of law if the sender knows the recipient is under the age of 18. Such advertising can be reported to your service provider and, if known, the service provider of the originator. It can also be reported to your state and federal legislators, so they can be made aware of the extent of the problem."

LaRue said that response is "inadequate and misleading." She questioned why the guide doesn't mention it is a federal crime to use interstate commerce, which she says includes interactive computer services, to send an obscene advertisement through email.

"If there's anybody on the planet who hasn't received a

commercial e-mail spam that includes hard-core porn, they probably don't have a computer," LaRue said.

The obscenity laws are based on a three-part test outlined by the Supreme Court. The test instructs judges and juries to evaluate material under consideration using these guidelines:

First, would the average person, "applying contemporary adult community standards," find the work, "taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest (i.e., an erotic, lascivious, abnormal, unhealthy, degrading, shameful or morbid interest in nudity, sex or excretion)?"

Second, would the average person, again applying current community standards, find the work "depicts or describes, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct?"

Finally, would a reasonable person say the work, "taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value?"

Any material meeting this definition may be found to violate federal law. Anyone convicted of distributing such material may be prosecuted and punished by fines and imprisonment, according to the "Citizens' Guide to Federal Obscenity Laws" found at DOJ's website, www.usdoj.gov.

"The jury decides if the material is obscene based on what they know about their community," said Matt Barber, policy director for cultural issues at CWA.

LaRue's report, titled "Budgeting Wars Part II: Feds Fail at Obscenity Enforcement," may be accessed at www.cwfa.org.

CP giving smashing records, again

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — With year-to-date contributions through the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Cooperative Program (CP) now 6.05% ahead of the same time frame in 2006, SBC Executive Committee President and Chief Executive Officer Morris H. Chapman noted, "This surge in giving through the Cooperative Program can be seen as nothing less than God's extended blessing upon the work of Southern Baptists to extend the Gospel to the world."

"I think what we are seeing from Southern Baptists is a resurgence of attention to cooperation among us," he said. "It is too early to tell, and the Cooperative Program is just one indicator of the health of our convention, but an important one."

"We need to see continued focus on cooperation if the convention is to grow spiritually, and I believe that revival among Southern Baptists is essential if we are to see revival in America," Chapman said.

Bob Rodgers, vice president for Cooperative Program & stewardship with the Executive Committee, said the CP report reflects "SBC churches and state conventions committing themselves afresh to reaching the lost on a global scale."

"This is evidence of the power of cooperative and sacrificial giving," Rodgers said. "The Holy Spirit multiplies these gifts to accomplish His purpose on a scale much greater than what we can do individually."

During the Southern Baptist Convention's last fiscal year, which ended Sept. 30, Cooperative Program gifts topped the \$200-million mark for the first time, with the 2005-06 fiscal year's total of \$200,601,536.29 marking a 2.37% increase over the previous fiscal year.

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' method of supporting missions and ministry efforts of state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention. It is separate from the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Fund of which 100% of monies go to aid the needy in the general public.

The Cooperative Program total includes receipts from individuals, churches, state conventions and fellowships for distribution according to the 2005-06 Cooperative Program Allocation Budget.

Designated contributions include the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions, Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund and other special gifts.

State and regional conventions retain a portion of church contributions to the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program to support work in their respective areas and forward a percentage to Southern Baptist national and international causes. The percentage of distribution is at the discretion of each state or regional convention.

Happy Easter from

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Miss. Acteens celebrate God, missions

By Erica Harms
Correspondent

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Approximately 160 Acteens and their leaders took advantage of a chance to learn about and participate in missions, as well as spend a weekend together, at the Mississippi Acteens Convention (MAC) on March 30-April 1 at Baptist-affiliated Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain.

The Mississippi Acteens Conference is an annual missions weekender for seventh through twelfth grade teenagers and their adult leaders.

Once on the campus of BMC, Acteens were greeted with a giant seven-foot footprint and various multi-colored shoes dangling from the auditorium's ceiling, as they prepared to learn about "Beautiful Feet," this year's MAC theme. Using Romans 10:15, each person was challenged to not only learn about the ways that God is using missionaries around the world, but also how God desires to use each of them.

"We want every student to know that if they are a Christian, they are called to go and share Christ. God can use them as missionaries—right now," said Robin Keels, Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (wMu) consultant and MAC coordinator.

The fast-paced weekend was quite a hit with eighth grader Kayleigh White, who attends Hillcrest Church in New Albany. "I had a blast. This was my first MAC, but definitely not my last. I learned just how beautiful the feet of missionaries are because their feet are taking them all around the world to tell people about Jesus," White said.



STAND AND SING — Participants in the 2007 Mississippi Acteen Convention March 30-April 1 at Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain take time out to praise the Lord in song and motion. The annual event sponsored by the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (wMu) drew more than 160 girls and their adult leaders this year. (Photo by Erica Harms)

Among the weekend's events were missionary visits with an International Mission Board missionary from South Asia who cannot be identified because of the sensitivity of her work, and Brook Hale, a summer missionary from Canada.

"In the Bible, people didn't have e-mail or text messaging. When they had news to share with other people, it was their feet that took them there. We have the Good News to share. People are hungry and they need to know," the unidentified missionary said.

Reading from Acts chapter eight, she said, "It was as Philip was going that he had a chance to lead someone to Christ. God has called each of you to do something, but it's 'as you go' that opportunities will come to share with people about God."

In addition to missionary visits, break-out sessions, worship celebrations, and ministry projects were among the weekend activities.

"My favorite part of the weekend was our ministry project on Saturday. We had a free car wash and people were amazed that it didn't cost anything. Lots of people offered us donations and couldn't believe it when we wouldn't accept them," said Kiara Dozier, who also attends Hillcrest Church in New Albany.

Communities surrounding Blue Mountain were saturated with teenagers Saturday afternoon as each Acteens group was assigned to a ministry location. Mission projects included nursing home visits, raking leaves, washing windows at the homes of senior citizens, cleaning out a church nursery, and hosting the free car wash.

"It was really neat to be able to drive from site to site visiting groups as they did their mission projects. This weekend is a chance for teenagers to not only learn about missions and hear from missionaries, but also to participate in missions themselves," Keels said.

It was that component that Amy-Jo Girardier, Bible study leader, highlighted as she spoke to the teenagers.

"Your very lives are a letter that anyone can read by just looking at you. Christ himself wrote it not with ink, but with God's living Spirit; not chiseled into stone, but carved into human lives, and we publish it," she read from the Message version of 2 Corinthians 3.

"It's our job to publish it. Are you publishing the message that Christ has put on your heart?" asked Girardier, a staff member at Brentwood Church in Brentwood, Tenn.

Keels expressed appreciation to Blue Mountain College for hosting the event. Blue Mountain is one of three institutions of higher learning affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Blue Mountain College, MAC, and other Acteen activities are supported by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program.

"The weekend was wonderful. Imagine what God can do with 160 pairs of beautiful feet heading back home throughout Mississippi," Keels said.

For more information on MAC and other Acteens activities, contact Keels at Mississippi wMu, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3322 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 332. E-mail: rkeels@mbcb.org.

King inaugural announced

HATTIESBURG, Ms. (Special) — Longtime William Carey University (WCU) faculty member and administrator Tommy King will be inaugurated as the Baptist-affiliated school's ninth president at 2 p.m. on April 30 in Smith Auditorium of the Thompson Fine Arts Center on the Hattiesburg campus.

Inaugural events will actually begin on April 26 with a student prayer breakfast, followed by a faculty/staff prayer breakfast on April 27. Both events start at 7 a.m. in the Student Conference Center on campus.

On April 29 at 7 p.m., the university will host an inaugural worship service at 38th Avenue Church in Hattiesburg. A reception hosted by the church will follow the service.

The annual Honors Day Convocation will begin at 10 a.m. on April 30 in Smith Auditorium, followed by a picnic in Chain Garden. The formal inaugural convocation will begin at 2 p.m. in Smith Auditorium.

King was elected February 15 by the school's trustees to succeed Larry Kennedy, who served as WCU president for eight years before succumbing to complications from Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, on September 21, 2006.

King is the first WCU graduate to lead the school. He had previously served WCU as executive vice-president, dean of the school of psychology and counseling, and professor of psychology.

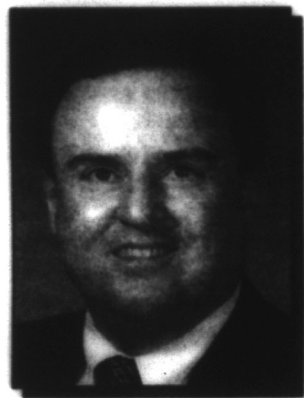
The public is welcome to attend the inaugural worship service, the Honors Day Convocation, and the inaugural convocation. For more information, call (601) 318-6192.



King



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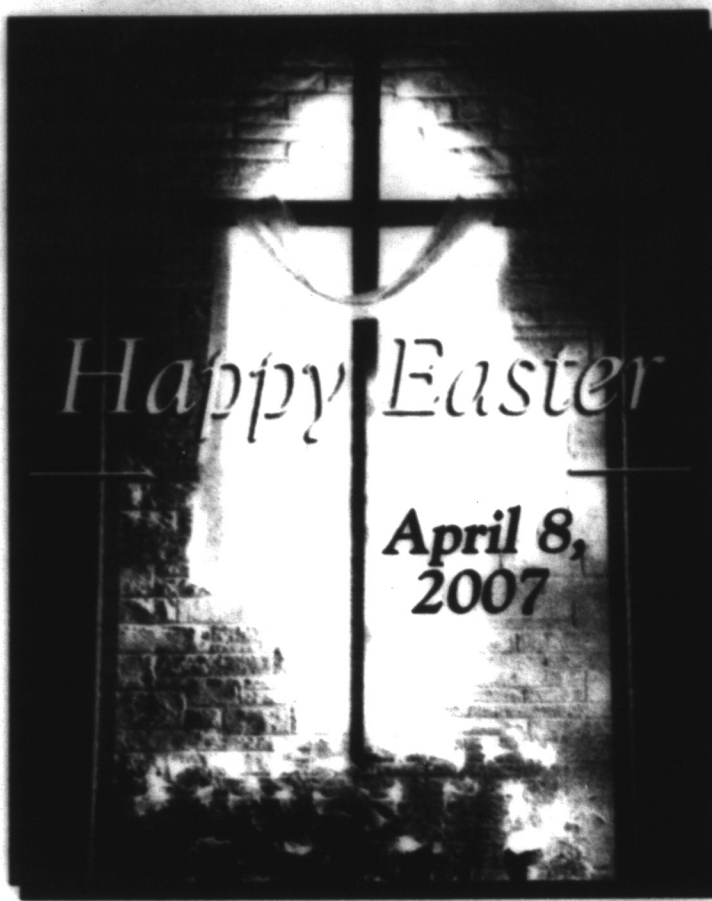
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What a coincidence (again)!

If the non-religious elitists in the mainstream American media are publishing articles calling into question everything Christians believe from the virgin birth of Jesus to His death and Resurrection, it must be getting close to Easter. What a coincidence!

No, that statement was not written in this space a few weeks ago when Oscar-winning filmmaker James Cameron and obscure Canadian journalist Simcha Jacobovici announced a Discovery Channel documentary that purported to expose the 2000-year-old tomb of Jesus and His ossuary (bone box), thus debunking the story of Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension.

That statement was written in this space in early April 2006, in reference to the latest (at that time) phenomenal archaeological find that was supposed to blow the lid off Christianity. Just before Easter 2006, the National Geographic Channel aired a documentary on the newly-uncovered Book of Judas, about which a National Geographic Channel promotion piece stated: "One of the most significant biblical finds of the last century — a lost gospel that could challenge what is believed about the story of Judas and his betrayal of Jesus." The New York Times gushed that the Judas text was "troubling for many believers," and was producing "a new generation of Christians who now regard the Bible not as the literal word of God but as a product of historical and political forces that determined which texts should be included in the canon, and which edited out."



Did the Book of Judas bring the Christian faith crashing down in 2006? Hardly. A brief search of the World Wide Web will today reveal that it was the Book of Judas that was debunked, not Christianity.

Thus has been the fate of the Cameron/Jacobovici "discovery" this year, too. It turns out that legitimate archaeologists have known about the alleged tomb of Jesus for decades. Amos Kloner, the Israeli archaeologist appointed by the government to study the tomb site in Jerusalem shortly after its discovery many years ago, criticized Cameron and Jacobovici for their amateurish attempt at archaeology and said, "They just want to get money for it."

William Deaver, a professor emeritus at the University of Arizona who has spent five decades unearthing such archaeological sites in Israel, told Associated Press, "It would be amusing, if it didn't mislead so many people."

For many years now, news media and entertainment outlets such as the New York Times, Newsweek magazine, ABC television network, and any number of cable channels have earnestly published and broadcast pseudo-investigative reports around the time of Easter with such profound story lines as, "Who was Jesus?" and "The Real Christ." Needless to say, their answers to their own questions are often unrecognizable to Christians.

Underlying much of this reporting is a transparent effort to reduce the Son of God to a mere mortal. Although couched in semi-respectable terms, the conclusion is always the same: *We just can't be sure Jesus was who He said He was.* The wildly-popular Da Vinci Code book and movie were both aimed squarely at promoting that message.

How pathetically we are served by our mass media in almost every way, but certainly when it comes to portrayals of Jesus and the Christian faith.

The Bible is the authentic Word of God, Jesus Christ is the authentic Son of God, and we are the authentic followers of the authentic God and His authentic Son. Easter is a real event in human history and in eternity, as foretold and described in the authentic Bible.

What's so hard to understand about that? It seems some people are simply educated — or just deem themselves sophisticated — beyond their intelligence.

Unfortunately, that fact really stands out at this time of year.

Poll: Americans believe Resurrection is true

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — On the eve of Easter, it may surprise many that 75% of the Americans who say they are not born-again Christians still believe the biblical account of Jesus literally coming back to life in his physical body, according to recent research by the North American Mission Board (NAMB) Center for Missional Research (CMR).

A less surprising result of the study is that nearly 100% of those identifying themselves as born-again Christians believe in the resurrection of Jesus.

"It really stunned us to learn that 75% of those Americans claiming not to be born-again still believe in the resurrection," said Phillip Connor, research missiology manager for CMR. The CMR data was collected from a random sample of 1,204 adults across the United States. The interviews were conducted by the polling firm of Zogby International on behalf of the NAMB center.

"It also surprised us that 59% of those who rarely darken the church doors, and 39% of those who never attend church, nevertheless still believe in the literal resurrection of Christ," said Connor.

Connor and NAMB's research team also conducted some research related to the recent and controversial documentary, *The Lost Tomb of Jesus*, by Hollywood filmmaker James Cameron. The documentary, which recently aired on the Discovery Channel, investigated an ossuary allegedly containing the bones of Jesus.

"We wanted to see how the documentary influenced the public's opinion on the resurrection," Connor said. "The research showed that 57% of the population had read about, heard about or watched the documentary."

"However, familiarity with the film had no impact on the public's view of the resurrection. About 75% of those with and without knowledge of the documentary continue to believe in Jesus' bodily resurrection," Connor said.

Thirty-five percent of respondents said they were more likely to attend an Easter service after hearing about or viewing Cameron's documentary. Only seven percent said the film would decrease the possibility that they would attend church this Easter Sunday.

"About 23% of those who claim to not be born-again Christians said they would be more likely to attend church Easter Sunday as a result of the documentary. Another 21%, who rarely attend church, also said they will be more likely to attend Easter services after hearing about or watching the film," Connor said.

The complete study can be found at the Center for Missional Research's website, www.namb.net/cmr.

Meanwhile, roughly half of Americans also reject the theory of evolution and instead believe that God created humans in their present form in the past 10,000 years, according to a new Newsweek poll.

The survey of 1,004 adults, conducted March 28-29, found that 48% of Americans believe God made humans "pretty much in the present form at one time within the last 10,000 years or so." Another 30% believe humans evolved over millions of years, with God guiding the process — a belief sometimes called theistic evolution. Only 13% believe in a God-less evolution.

It is but the latest poll showing that a large number of Americans discount evolution, despite the fact it is promoted as true within the mainstream media, academia, and culture at large.

Among other polls:

- A Gallup poll of 1,002 adults last May found that 46% of Americans believed God created humans in their present form within the past 10,000 years. Thirty-six percent believed in theistic evolution, and 13% believed in evolution with God not playing a role.

- A Harris poll of 1,000 adults in June 2005 found that 64% believed "human beings were created directly by God," 22% said humans "evolved from earlier species" and 10% believed humans "are so complex that they required a powerful force or intelligent being to help create them." In a separate question, only 38% said humans "developed from earlier species."

The Newsweek poll also found that 91% of Americans profess a belief in God, and only three percent describe themselves as an atheist.

Land: resolve immigration in 'moral way'

WASHINGTON (BP) -- Southern Baptist ethics leader Richard Land joined Hispanic evangelical Christian leaders and members of Congress in a March 29 Capitol Hill news conference calling for a law that secures America's borders and outlines a firm process for illegal immigrants to earn citizenship.

The Senate and House of Representatives both passed bills in the last Congress to address the illegal immigration problem. The differences in the two measures were stark, leaving both dead and the question of how to deal with an estimated 12 million illegal immigrants in the United States unresolved when the congressional session concluded.

"[Congress needs], consistent with national sovereignty and with our security, to find a way to resolve this moral problem in a moral way consistent with the ideals of our nation," said Land. "This is a profoundly moral issue, and it goes to the core of who we are as Americans."

During the news conference, Land read most of the SBC's 2006 resolution on illegal immigration. That measure, approved by an overwhelming majority of the messengers, urged increased border security and enforcement of the laws, while encouraging Christian outreach to immigrants regardless of their legal status.

Samuel Rodriguez, head of the country's leading Hispanic evangelical Christian association, said at the news conference the network of churches and leaders does not support amnesty.

"We support an earned pathway to citizenship," said Rodriguez, president of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference. "We support a pathway that will include demonstrations of profi-



CALL FOR REFORM -- Richard Land, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville, urges Congress to adopt comprehensive immigration reform at a March 29 news conference in Washington. Representatives of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference surround Land. (BP photo by Tom Strode)

ciency in the English vernacular, civic classes, paying penalties and fines for breaking the law."

Such a process could take "10, 12, 13, 14 years possibly," he said.

Land also said at the news conference, "We don't want to have the World Series where you have to have the national anthem sung in Spanish and English, the way it is in French and English in Canada. That's why it's important that people learn to read and write and speak English as part of the process of becoming part of the permanent fabric of this nation."

He said Southern Baptist churches can make a major difference on the problem by initiating English classes. Last

year's SBC resolution encouraged churches to begin such classes "on a massive scale."

Land predicted a majority of Southern Baptists and other evangelicals will support reform that is truly comprehensive. "They will not embrace reform that is not [committed] to securing the borders," Land told reporters after the news conference. "But if the government [shows] they are serious about securing the borders, they will embrace comprehensive reform."

Reps. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill., and Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., also spoke at the news conference, one week after they introduced the latest version of comprehensive immigration reform in the House. Also speaking were Sens. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C.; Robert Menendez, D-N.J., and Ken Salazar, D-Colo., as well as Gilbert Velez, senior pastor of Mercy Church in Laredo, Texas.

The Senate approved in May a bill intended to secure the border with Mexico but also with provisions that would

establish a guest-worker program and enable most illegal immigrants to enter a process to become citizens. Some House Republicans and other conservatives charged it would provide amnesty to those who are in this country illegally.

The House version, which was passed in December 2005, focused on border security and enforcement against illegal immigrants and those who aid them. Hispanic leaders and Senate Democrats sharply criticized it as lacking in compassion.

Last summer, the Senate appeared to move toward the House position to some extent. For instance, senators voted 94-3 to fund the construction of 370 miles of fencing and 461 miles of vehicle barriers on the United States-Mexico border.

The standoff on the issue, Rodriguez said at the news conference, has resulted in "polarizing [Hispanic] communities, separating families and provoking 12 million people to hide deeper in the shadows..."

'Antichrist' headed to U.S.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) -- A man who calls himself both "the Second Coming of Jesus," and "the Antichrist," is gathering followers among Hispanics in the United States after successfully spreading his no-sin, no-hell message through 30 other countries. Jose de Jesus, a 60-year-old Puerto Rican now preaching in Houston, told ABC News, "Before the presence of God, there's no more sin." He preaches that the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ means sin no longer exists and people now can do no wrong in God's eyes. Reared in a housing project in Puerto Rico, a teenage de Jesus stole to support his heroin addiction. He says two angels came to him in a 1973 vision while he was imprisoned, and the "spirit that was in Jesus of Nazareth" entered him. After release from prison, he came to the United States and began working as a youth minister. According to de Jesus, Antichrist is not an evil being but is the next incarnation of Jesus on earth. His followers often get "666" tattoos to demonstrate their devotion. They ply him with expensive gifts and mariachi bands greet him at airports when he travels. With substantial numbers of disciples -- perhaps a million -- in Venezuela, Columbia, Cuba, and other Latin American countries, de Jesus believes the time has come for him to spread his message in the United States. "Miami is the bridge for all nations," he told ABC News. "That's where Hispanics are, and then eventually I'm going to find a lot of beautiful English-speaking people who will want to believe in me and I'm going to have millions of them."

Looking back

10 years ago

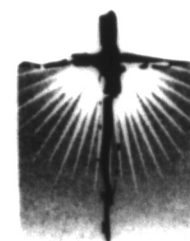
A record 111 students are commissioned as Mississippi Baptist Student Union (BSU) summer missionaries at the annual Leadership Training Conference Apr. 4 - 6 at Gulfshore Assembly, the 50th anniversary of student summer missions in Mississippi.

20 years ago

By a vote of 52 - 15, Larry Lewis is elected president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board during a special called meeting Apr. 10. Lewis, former home missionary and church planter, is president of Hannibal-LaGrange College in Hannibal, Mo.

50 years ago

In the seven years since Southern Baptists last trekked to Chicago for their national convention, the denomination has grown in membership from seven million to over 8.5 million.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

APRIL 5, 2007

VOL. 131

No. 14



**YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!**

*Simply share the following prayer
with God in your own words:*

1. Lord, I admit that I need you.
(I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my
sins and freedom from eternal
death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose
from the grave to forgive my
sins and to restore my rela-
tionship with you.
(I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus
Christ into my life. From this
time on, I want to live in a lov-
ing relationship with Him. (I
receive Christ as my Savior
and Lord.)

*"But as many as received him,
to them he gave the right to become
children of God, even to those who
believe in his name." (John 1:12)*

*If you make a decision for
Jesus Christ today, contact a
local Baptist church for spiritu-
al guidance.*

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

Jesus died for our sins, was sealed in a tomb, and three days later triumphantly and forevermore rose again, and He is alive today. That is the core of the biblical account of Jesus and that is the heart of the Good News, that God has provided for us a way of forgiveness, cleansing, and eternal salvation. With all of my heart, soul, and mind, I believe what the Bible declares. Recently, a movie mogul by the name of James Cameron made his declaration that he had found the burial box and the body of Jesus. Although the box had been found some years ago, Cameron conjured up a theory that Jesus did not die and rise from the dead but secretly went on living and even more, Cameron added a story about his involvement with Mary Magdalene and a child that was born to them. Conveniently, he released his far-fetched theory on the world just before the Easter season in an effort to shake the very foundation of Christians around the world. While his findings got some media play, they were generally brushed aside and debunked at every level by numerous biblical scholars. Out of curiosity and an awareness that some people would probably ask about his findings, I listened to what he had to say and wondered why he would even present such an idea with such flimsy documentation.



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

On the positive side, may I just say to you that we have every reason in heaven and on earth to believe that Jesus died, rose again, and even now sits in glory at the right hand of God. Why am I so sure? I propose to you three simple facts about the Resurrection.

Fact number one points to the believers. Just consider this: following the death of Jesus and His burial, the Resurrection would take place and Jesus would appear to one, and another, and another, and another, and according to Scripture met with a gathering of 500 at one time. Those who were there saw Him in death, then in life, and were willing to risk their own lives and even die for that incredible truth. People will not give their lives for a lie. Their minds would not agree to it and their emotions would not allow them to protect such a fabrication. His own earthly brothers who probably were not believers before the Resurrection embraced His lordship in total once they saw Him alive again. Many of those early believers faced death with unalterable courage and

unshakeable faith knowing that He was alive forever more.

The second piece of incredible evidence points to the unbelievers. When you begin to look at the powerful groups who were shaken, embarrassed, and incredibly frustrated by His Resurrection, you have to be amazed. The Jewish leaders of the day and the power and influence of the Roman government were shaken by the empty tomb. These powers had far more to gain than a movie producer if they could just produce some evidence that He was still dead, and they could not. They were not singing praises that He was alive. They wanted to produce evidence that He was dead, and their efforts were all futile because their sealed, guarded tomb was empty. While they would have loved to have produced a lifeless, dead body that proved their case, they could not and the unbelievers became a piece of evidence and in a strange way affirmed the truth that He is alive.

The last piece of evidence that I would offer is in those folks I call the receivers. John says, "As

many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:12). I have been blessed to witness genuine, transformed lives because by faith they have met the living Lord Jesus Christ. I am not talking about people who are just a part of organized religion, and I am not talking about folks who just go to church on Easter as a ritual. I have seen people living their faith with a vibrancy that declares and demonstrates that Jesus Christ makes a difference in who they are, what they do, and where they are going. I have experienced the wonder and incredible delight of knowing Jesus. I have seen reflected in the lives of hundreds of people the purpose of life and meaning that only He can bring. I have watched as saints have faced death with a peace in their heart and a confidence about eternity because of a genuine experience with Christ. Death is never an easy process, even as it was not for Jesus on the cross. Yet, as with Him, multitudes have lived and died with calm assurance that, "Into thy hands I commend my spirit." Because He is alive, we can face all of the uncertainties of life with the certainty that because He lives, we will live also. For me the evidence is clear that James Cameron may be a skilled movie producer, but Jesus Christ is the living Son of God.

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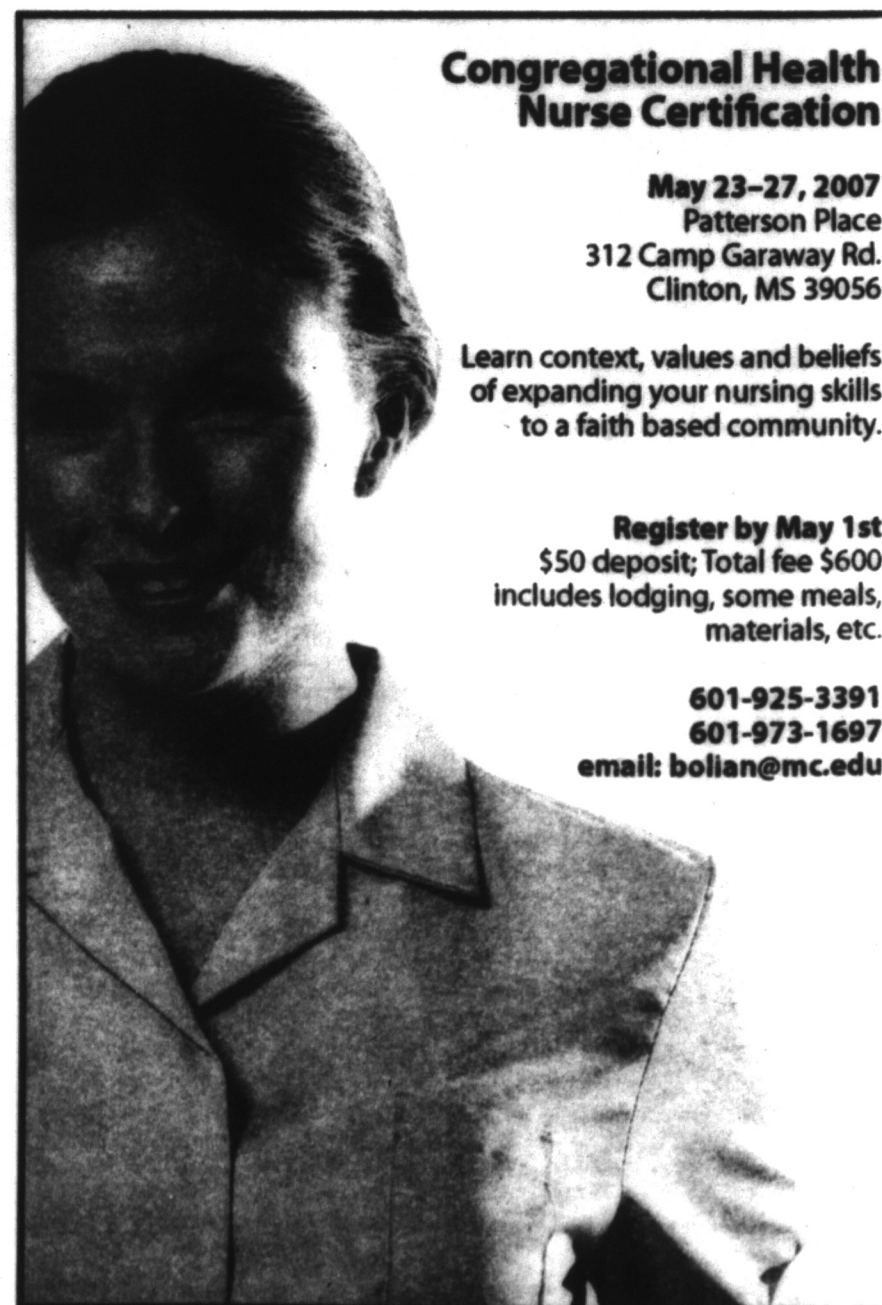
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Church Bonds currently being offered by
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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

April 5, 2007

HouseTops is a **Baptist Record** supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's **Communication Services**.

ADOPT-A-SUMMER MISSIONARY Mississippi BSU

Pastors

Did you know that ...

... 2007 is the 60th year of Mississippi Baptist Student Union sending out Summer Missionaries?

... during those years 3,171 students have served, and Mississippi BSUs have raised over three million dollars to send them?

... these students are servant leaders, giving up summer jobs and income to become missionaries?

WMU Leaders

And did you know that ...

... you and your church can be personally involved and supportive of one of these students as they serve this summer?

... by adopting a student for the summer, your church or WMU can experience first-hand support for those who are sacrificing to serve?

You can help by assisting students in many ways:

Spiritual – Praying for and remembering these students.

Physical – Helping students with small needs such as toiletries, gift cards, stamps, etc. Some churches have involved their VBS during the summer, their children, and their workers, in various support activities of Summer Missionaries.

DEADLINE: MAY 15!

YES! We are interested in adopting a Mississippi BSU Summer Missionary appointed through our State Baptist Student Union for the summer of 2007. Please register our request to be assigned a student and send further information.

Contact Person: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Church Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Three Mississippi universities/colleges near us:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Send to: Collegiate Ministry Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board,
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CHAPLAINS' ASSOCIATION SPRING RETREAT

Patterson Place, Camp Garaywa

April 27-28, 2007

FRIDAY EVENING will be "An Evening with Pruitt Calvert" as he presents Aunt Blabby, who can't wait to spread the news! Come join in the fun on Friday night and relax and laugh with "Aunt Blabby."

On **SATURDAY MORNING** **Hardy Denham** will lead our retreat sessions: "Looking on the Bright Side," and "Rendering Service that Continues to Last."

Music By Bobby Shurden

Bobby will bring our music on Friday night and Saturday morning. He is pastor of Crestview Baptist Church, Petal, and was a full time music evangelist.

Check-in begins at 3 p.m., with dinner at 6 p.m.

Come early and enjoy afternoon refreshments, visit with old friends, and make new friends. We will dismiss after lunch on Saturday.

There is no charge for members of the Chaplains' Association and their spouses.

For reservations contact Carol Wright, Men's Ministry,
MBCB, 601-292-3334, or
1-800-748-1651, E-mail: cwright@mbcb.org.

2007 State Senior Adult Rally Thursday, August 30 Mississippi College, Swor Auditorium \$1 at door



Speaker: Dennis Swanberg
Music: Visionaries Choir, FBC, Hattiesburg

CONFERENCES

Fun Time with Rick

Rick Brewly, juggling, music and magic
Success of Significance for Senior Adults
Tom Crocker, Memphis, Tenn., LifeWay Consultant
Developing a Servant Heart
Dennis Daniel, Pastoral Care Ministries, FBC, Jackson

To register, contact Eric Pratt at MC, 601-925-3235, fax 601-925-3909, or E-mail epratt@mc.edu. Deadline to register is August 23.



Mississippi Baptist Symphony Orchestra Worship Service

Fairview Baptist Church
Columbus

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

April 22, 7 p.m.

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**Strategic
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The most dramatic shift in
 American life this century is
 urbanization. By 2020, the
 top 20 cities in the U.S. will
 grow by 30-70%.

Mississippi Baptist churches are networking to begin a "high impact" church in each of four strategic mega focus cities.

You Can Provide

- **Focused Prayer Support**
- **Volunteer Support**
- **Financial Support**
- **Advocacy Support**

WHY?

Mississippi Baptist Churches will be involved in starting a "high impact" church in each area. These churches are designed to plant a new church every two to three years. Then the new church plant will do the same. Multiplication of churches will continue to impact these mega focus cities.

Contact: Information

Ken Rhodes, 601-292-3398, krhodes@mbcb.org
 Paul Harrell, 601-292-3398, pharrell@mbcb.org

Missions
 Mobilization
 Department

"It's Your Call!"

Key Note Speaker
Drew Phillips
 President, Illinois wMu

Worship Leader
Karen Fluk
 Music Evangelist

Featuring
Drew Phillips
 East St. Louis Ministry Center

Annual Missions Celebration
 & wMu Associational Missions
 Leadership Training

April 23-24, 2007
 First Baptist Church, Madison

2 0 0 7 MONDAY, APRIL 23

FEATURING
 PRESENTER
O.S. Hawkins

TUESDAY, APRIL 24

PREACHING



**CAMP GARAYWA ... COLLEGE STUDENTS,
 be a cabin leader or older high school
 females, be a cabin leader-in-training!**

Are you a female college student, with a heart for Christ, children, camping and missions? Camp Garaywa needs you to serve as a cabin leader for our eight week summer camping program! We also have positions available for older high school females (must be 16) to serve as cabin-leaders-in-training for one-two weeks during the summer. If you are interested, please contact Robin Keels in the wMu department at 1.800.748.1651, ext. 322, or 601.292.3322.

Applications are also available online at www.mbc.org. Don't miss this opportunity to be blessed, and be a blessing to others!

**Map to FBC
 Madison**

Canton
 N
 I-55
 Exit 108
 Jackson

Texaco
 Shell
 Hwy 461/Main Street
 1.5 miles from I-55 to church

RR Tracks
 Parking
 FBC
 Parking
 School
 Hwy 51

For more info, contact Mississippi wMu at
 601-292-3319 or spruitt@mbcb.org.
 Go to www.mbc.org. Click on: Departments, Mission Strategy,
 Woman's Missionary Union.

OLDER CHILDREN'S
Bible Drill Camp 2007

July 5-7

Central Hills Baptist Retreat

For all Boys and Girls in your church who have completed Grades 3-6

Cost \$95 with \$50 deposit due with preregistration

Camp activities include:

Bible Study, Bible Memorization, Bible Skill, Worship, Camp Fire Service, Morning Watch, Time with Southern Baptist Missionaries, Horseback Riding, Rifle Range [safety/marksman-ship], Swimming, Canoeing, and 4 square.

Each church group must have a male counselor for every 7 boys (or portion thereof) and a female counselor for every 7 girls (or portion thereof). Children are together with the counselors from their church all during camp.

Camp begins with check-in at 2 p.m., Thursday, July 5, 2007, and ends at noon on Saturday, July 7.

Program questions should be directed to the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, 1-800-748-1651 or dbrashier@mbcb.org

Small Church/
Bivocational
Church
Pastor's
Workshop



Temple BC, Hattiesburg
June 25, 2-9 p.m.

Emmanuel BC, Grenada
June 26, 2-9 p.m.

Led by Paul Powell

Sponsored by Pastor/Leadership
Development Department
Contact Kay McDonnell
(601-292-3305, 1-800-748-1651,
or kmcdonnel@mbcb.org)
for further details.

VISION

**INTERNATIONAL
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*You are invited to join us for
a unique and exciting event
about global missions
with Gordon Fort, IMB,
and Terry Sharp, IMB.*

3 convenient locations:

Monday, April 30, 2007
FBC, Starkville

Tuesday, May 1, 2007
FBC, Richland

Wednesday, May 2, 2007
Easthaven Baptist Church, Brookhaven

Day Event, 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Ministers of Missions Dinner, 5 p.m.

Evening Rally, 6 p.m.

ENVISION GLOBAL IMPACT.

For more information, visit us at www.missionsvision.org or
missions@mbcb.org. 1-800-748-1651, ext. 205 or
601-292-3305. Registration deadline: April 18.

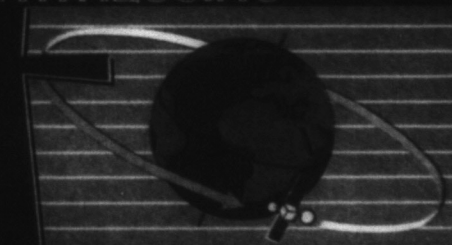


**BARBIE
BASSETT**
Banquet Speaker

MAY 4-5, 2007

Park Place Baptist Church
Pearl, Miss.

WITNESSING



THROUGH MEDIA

For more info, contact:

Judy Chen
601-292-3378
1-800-748-1651
jchen@mbcb.org

Communication Services
Mississippi Baptist
Convention Board

Reservation Deadline is
April 16, 2007

WORKSHOPS

- "Nuts and Bolts" of Camera Operation – Led by Don Moore and David Bunger
- Getting Started on the Web – Led by J.C. Howell
- How Did They Do That?
- Creative Production – Led by Don Moore and David Bunger
- Sound Advice Basic – Led by Trooper Hales
- Sound Advice Advanced – Led by Trooper Hales
- Advanced Web Site Design – Led by J.C. Howell
- Non-Linear Editing for Weekly Church Broadcast – Led by Lynn Bullock
- Projection Systems Forum
- Me? The Director? – Led by Lynn Bullock

Pray this day for...

April 6-19, 2007

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"Believers do not have to be defeated by hardships, but they can experience mastery."

From "How Faith Works" by Harold T. Ryson

Team Romany writes: "Music is an important part of the Romany culture among the Gypsies of Central Europe. We have seen God use music to attract the interest of Roma. Please join us in thanking God for a new volunteer musician who is reaching out to the Roma in Brno."

(1) Cooperative Program Day (STEW/CP Emphasis); (2) Please pray for M, a university student in Tanzania. She spent her Christmas break in India, and shared some of her new beliefs with her family. She even saw the story of Paul's journeys on a Christian TV station with J, another student. Please join in prayer for M's family.

Mississippi Council on Bivocational Ministries, Eagle Ridge Conference Center, Raymond (PALD); (2) Mississippi Ministers' Golf Tournament, Lake Caroline, Madison (CAC); (3) State Ministry Assistants Conference, Camp Garaywa, Clinton (PALD).

(1) Bible Drills, Harrisburg BC, Tupelo; FBC, Tupelo (D&FM); (2) S is one of Martha C's discipleship training students in South Korea. S's husband, a doctor, recently became infected with tuberculosis from one of his patients. S became a Christian in Martha's Bible study and then led her husband to the Lord.

(1) SYNCUP - "The Power of Working Together" - A Large Church Pastor and Minister of Education Conference, North Oxford BC, Oxford (SS); (2) SYNCUP - "The Power of Working Together" - A Small Church Pastor and SS Director Conference, North Oxford BC, Oxford (SS); (3) Bible Drill, FBC, Batesville; FBC, Picayune (D&FM).

(1) Bible Drills, FBC, Starkville (D&FM); (2) Please continue to pray for P and many other faithful servants of God who continue to share the truth in the midst of threat and persecution. Pray for their special wisdom as to how to encourage others during these hard times and help them to lay all their burdens at the Father's feet.

(1) SYNCUP - "The Power of Working Together" (Large Churches), Camp Garaywa (SS); (2) Please pray for missionary Burt Miller who is building up a relationship with D., who is very interested in becoming a Christian, but her Hindu husband and mother-in-law are holding her back. Pray for them.

(1) Campers on Mission, Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko (MM); (2) A quote from a Baptist representative in a Last Frontier nation, "It is exciting to see God's local children loving Him." Be encouraged that He is at work. Remember these local believers in prayer, asking for encouragement and safety.

(1) SYNCUP - "The Power of Working Together" (Large Churches), Petal Harvey BC, Petal (SS); (2) SYNCUP - "The Power of Working Together" - A Small Church Pastor and SS Director Conference, Petal Harvey BC (SS); (3) Bible Drill, FBC, Brookhaven; Emmanuel BC, Grenada (D&FM).

(1) Bible Drills, Salem Heights BC, Laurel (D&FM); (2) Imagine that you are one of 35 Christians living among more than 350,000 of your Sunni Muslim brother. You know that you have a true peace that surpasses all understanding. This is the situation of the 35 known Christians among the Kolai people.

In December, you prayed that every Christian on a major island in the Caribbean would own at least one copy of God's Word ... please continue praying. Between 2000 and 2006, several thousand Bibles, New Testaments and Gospels of John were sent to that island.

A rural Brazilian pastor who has been a problem in his city needs help. His church is gradually dying and it's a bad testimony for the community. Please pray that the Lord will move in miraculous ways in this situation so that this church will become a beacon of light in this city of great darkness.

(1) Bible Drill, Poplar Springs Drive BC, Meridian; Main Street BC, Hattiesburg (D&FM); (2) Missionary Parents Fellowship, Camp Garaywa - Patterson Place, Clinton, 2 pm, 13th-14th (WMU); (3) Leadership Training Conference, Mississippi College, Clinton, 13th-14th (CLGM).

(1) Mississippi Missionary Fellowship, Camp Garaywa, Clinton (WMU); (2) Bible Drill, McLaurin Heights BC, Pearl; FBC, Madison (D&FM); (3) Lad/Crusader Day, Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko (MM).



"Celebrate the Call in Every Season of a Woman's Life"

North East Mississippi Women's Celebration
Saturday, May 19

9:30 registration, Celebration 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Calvary Baptist Church, Belmont

featuring:

Acteen Emily Leathers, "Top Teen," Pickens - Spring
Janet Rayford, Jackson - Summer

Patrice Turner, Baltimore, Md. - Autumn

Shirley Berry, Water Valley, former Mrs. Mississippi - Winter

A woman in all of her seasons searches for meaning in her life. She searches for and discovers that life has a spiritual dimension as well as temporal. She also discovers a Comforter in her grieving, an ally and partner in her dreaming, an accurate mirror in measuring her self worth, and an encourager in her giving.

Tishomingo Association will be hosting lunch and a love offering will be taken to cover the cost. Registration begins at 9:30; Celebration starts at 10 a.m. Lunch at noon; 2 p.m. Adjourn.

Call the MS wMu for more info: 601-292-3324, 1-800-748-1651 or
E-mail Kburns@mbcb.org.

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Parents: William & Cynthia
NAMB: Las Vegas

6-3-86
MISS LAUREN E. MCCALL
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6-3-04
MISS MARGARET R. WINGO
Parents: Floyd & Sylvia
South America

6-6-86
MISS CHARISSA B. HEARON
Parents: Thomas & Bonnie
Western Europe

6-12-96
MISS AUDREY L. YOUNG
Parents: Steven & Laura
Middle America & the Caribbean

6-15-05
MR. ETHAN EPPS
Parents: Aaron & Tiffany
South America

6-22-94
MISS MARY KATHRYN YOUNG
Parents: Steven & Laura
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6-22-94
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Last Frontier

6-28-89
MISS CHARISSA L. FORTENBERRY
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CESA

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or region of service
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Birthdays,
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MS 39205

PLEASE NOTE:
Church members
may send a package
of cards together;
cards do not
have to be
sent individually
to the wMu.

HOUSE TOPS

Crossover San Antonio slated for June 9-10

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP) — An estimated 2,000 Southern Baptist volunteers will join forces for Crossover San Antonio prior to the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) June 12-13

annual meeting at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center.

Crossover, now in its 19th year, officially is June 9-10 and will be a comprehensive campaign to reach a signifi-

cant segment of San Antonio's unchurched population, said Don Smith, national Crossover coordinator for the North American Mission Board (NAMB).

NAMB is jointly sponsoring Crossover San Antonio with the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and San Antonio Association.

During the week and week-end leading up to the SBC's annual meeting, volunteers representing dozens of SBC churches in San Antonio and around the nation will take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the streets, parks and plazas of San Antonio, a city of some 1.8 million people and the second-largest city in Texas. About 60% of the population is Hispanic.

Despite a rich religious history, four out of five San Antonio residents do not attend church regularly and two-thirds have no church affiliation, according to Charles Price, director of missions for San Antonio Association, which consists of 259 churches and missions.

"(Crossover) is big for us, and we're getting a good response from our area churches," Price said. "We pray that God will give us an infusion of new believers into our churches and that we would be able to start three or four new churches as a result of Crossover."

"We also pray that Crossover gives us a new vision and energy for evangelism in the public square, not just through our worship services. We need a cross-cultural witness. San Antonio is a mission field with 45-50 people groups, and we have to approach it like that," Price said.

Crossover outreach efforts will include door-to-door evangelism, block parties and an international festival featuring dozens of ethnic groups showcasing their cultures, food, dress, music, dance, and art.

For additional information about Crossover San Antonio, visit www.crossoversa.org.

STAFF CHANGES



1. Harris and family, Tillatoba Church, Tillatoba

1. Tillatoba Church, Tillatoba, has called James "Rickey" Harris as pastor effective Feb. 25. He comes to Tillatoba from Enon Church, Grenada, where he served as deacon and music director. He surrendered to the ministry in Oct., 2006, and will be ordained Apr. 14 at 3 p.m. Shown are Sheri Harris, Kevin Harris, Katherine Harris, and Harris.

2. Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto, has called David Montgomery as minister of music and his wife Kathy as pianist. They will begin their ministry Apr. 15. Trent Bilbo, pastor.

EASTER EVENTS

Bethel Church, Columbus will present its children's Easter musical, *It All Happened in the City*, Apr. 8, 6 p.m. Walter Butler, pastor.

Sunrise Church, Leake County, will present its Easter cantata *My Savior, My God*, Mar. 31, 6:30 p.m.

Franklin Creek Church, Moss Point, will host an Easter egg hunt Apr. 7, 10 a.m. — noon, with games, prizes, snacks, and sleight-of-hand illusionist Richard Blaine.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004
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QFBLOFH, VG CFUIPFE
CLFNQLFH, QBNQ HIN
ZIE DQIMFH NQF TIIL IW
NQRM KILUE LRDQ RH
WBRNQ, BHE QFRLM IW
NQF ORHZEIV KQRDQ
QF QBNQ TLIVRMFE NI
NQFV NQBN UIPF QRV?

SBVFN NKI:WRPF

Clue: T = P

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Hebrews Nine: Twelve.

"... THE BORROWER IS
SLAVE TO THE LENDER ..."
PROVERBS 22:7

7 out of 10 people are living
paycheck to paycheck.

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COLLEGE NEWS

1. Blue Mountain College had two winners in this year's Southern Literary Festival competition. They were invited to present their winning selections during the Festival, which was held Mar. 30 - 31 at Rhodes College, Memphis. Amy Blake (left), a senior English education major from Blue Springs, won in two Southern Literary Festival categories: one-act play and informal essay. Blake's one act play, *The Hunted*, won third place in and her informal essay, *A Warm Place*, won second place. Lauryn McPhail Jenkins (right), a senior English education major from Horn Lake, won second place in the Festival's formal essay competition with her *Rebels and Angels* composition.



1. BMC, Literacy Winners

2. The Larry W. Kennedy Sports Complex at William Carey University will be dedicated at ceremonies to be held April 21 at 3:30 p.m. on the Hattiesburg campus. The Sports Complex will house the existing Milton Wheeler Baseball Field and the Joseph and Nancy Fail

Softball Field, concession stand, ticket booths and athletic offices. Kennedy, who served as president of the Christian university for eight years, died September 21 from complications from ALS, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease.

REVIVALS AND HOMECOMINGS

First Church, Soso: Revival, Apr. 15 - 18; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Mike Thompson, speaker; Steve and Becky Carver, music.

Coat Church, Simpson County: Revival, Apr. 22 - 25; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Kenney Golf, Pearl, speaker; Clark Walker, music; William McWilliams, pastor.

Crowder Church, Crowder: Homecoming, Apr. 22; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 10:45 a.m., followed by lunch and fellowship; Jackie Cooke and Ken Griffith, speaker and music.

Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto: 104th Homecoming, May 2; Howard Smith, pastor from Mar., 1959 to June, 1961, speaker; lunch after morning service; Trent Bilbo, pastor.

Liberty Church, Jefferson, Carroll County: Revival, Apr. 15 - 18; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Melvin Mordecia, speaker; Benny Rigby, music; Gary Tanner, pastor.

Ramah Church, McCall Creek: Homecoming, Apr. 15; services, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish meal; Wiley Read, speaker; Gordon Coker, pastor.

Missionaries return home to recover from robbery wounds

VALLEY SPRINGS, Ark. (BP) -- Southern Baptist missionaries Carl and Kay Garvin have returned to their home state of Arkansas and are recuperating after robbers attacked them in a hotel south of Moshi, Tanzania, in February.

Kay Garvin, who was shot in the chest, "is healing wonderfully well" and "is able to do anything she wants," said her husband, who is healing more slowly from surgery because of a broken arm, severe lacerations, and ligament damage to his knee.

"I'm restricted on doing the things I like to do," Carl Garvin said, adding that his arm is so fragile he will not be allowed to use it for three months. The machete one robber used to hack at his arm cut out a wedge of bone, so he has a plate in the arm. He also has had knee surgery.

The Garvins were initially treated at a Moshi clinic before being airlifted to a hospital in Nairobi, Kenya. They arrived home in Valley Springs, Ark., in early March and plan to be there for about six weeks before returning to Kenya for cluster meetings with other missionaries and for a women's prayer retreat.

They expect to be back in Moshi by the middle of May.

"It was quite an ordeal," Garvin said of the attack. "It was very frightening but even so, we did not lose our ability to think coherently. We could still think and respond appropriately through all of it... We

do not want to be seen as heroes, because God is the hero.

"Throughout this experience, He showed us and many others who He is in His grace and power. Miracles bubbled out of this in our lives and in the lives of others who heard of this."

Garvin said the police inspector in Kenya told him the robbers meant to kill the couple, "but that wasn't God's plan. He only let them go so far. God is getting more glory from this... It's like God telling Satan he could touch everything around Job but he could not touch Job's life. God has received glory in this. As people prayed for us, God received glory and many received a blessing."

Garvin said they are eager to return to their ministry in Tanzania. "This has not deterred our call at all," he said. "In fact, it has given us an even greater sense of His call."

Garvin expressed thanks to Baptists for placing "a prayer net around us." He also expressed gratitude for the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, which "provides for us physically in times like this as well as putting us on the field to do God's work."

Three Arkansas mission volunteers working with them when the attacks occurred were unharmed, Garvin said, because they were locked securely in their rooms the whole time, which likely saved their lives.

He said the volunteers, Joe and Cindy Lennon of First

Church in Harrison and Rudy Dehrens of Grandview First Church of Berryville, were of great assistance from the time the robbers fled until the Garvins received initial medical attention.

"God planted them in our way to provide specifically for Kay," Garvin said, noting that initially her injury was life-threatening.

A former nurse for 30 years with emergency medical training, Garvin was able to aid his wife immediately following the shooting. Then the Arkansas volunteers assisted them both as they traveled by car to a clinic.

MS POSITIONS

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, Pascagoula, Miss., is seeking a pastor for a growing church. Please send resumes with picture to: Calvary Baptist Church, P.O. 2278, Pascagoula, MS 39567 — Attention: Bill Pope.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH of Watson, LA seeking full-time Minister of Education. Please submit resume to rbsbc@bellsouth.net.

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., SERVING MS & AL since 1992. Call (800) 605-2970.

MINISTER OF STUDENTS and Recreation. Submit resume to Chatham Baptist Church, 1500 East Walnut St., Chatham IL. 62629 or jerryweber@insightbb.com.

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YOUTH MINISTER NEEDED to start a new Youth Ministry for our Church. This will be a full-time position with full salary and benefits. Send resumes to First Baptist Church, PO Box 190, Brookshire, TX 77423 Attn: youth search committee or email resume to david@davidnewberry.net.

SMOKE-FREE BRANSON, MISSOURI condo nightly rental. Like home, all new furnishings, street level, no steps, breathtaking view, sleeps 6, no pets. Call (888) 879-0388.

CHILDREN'S MINISTER NEEDED to start a new Children's Ministry for our Church. This will be a full-time position with full salary and benefits. Send resumes to First Baptist Church, PO Box 190, Brookshire, TX 77423 Attn: children's search committee or email resume to david@davidnewberry.net.

HEIDELBERG STAINED GLASS, Meridian. Design, fabrication, repair. Fax illustrations to (601) 483-7958 or call (800) 368-2705.

MINISTER OF MISSIONS, FULL-TIME. Cross-cultural experience recommended. Equip members for mission service locally and globally. Dunwoody Baptist Church, 1445 Mt. Vernon Road, Atlanta, GA 30338 or jchrismer@dbc.org.

NEW PROSPECT BAPTIST CHURCH, Anderson, SC (500 worship att.) is receiving resumes for a full-time minister to children and a full-time minister to students. Please mail to 2503 Whitehall Rd. Anderson, SC 29625 or email to tonys2004@bellsouth.net.

TENNESSEE BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES Boy's Ranch, Millington, Tenn., is looking for a committed Christian couple to work with adolescent boys. Great team environment combined with excellent benefits of medical, housing, food, utilities, transportation, and etc. For more information, contact Ray Moss (901) 872-0839 or rmoss@tbch4kids.org.

BON AIR BAPTIST IN RICHMOND, VA, seeks a children's minister. This person will direct a Christian education program for preschoolers, children, their parents and leaders. Candidates will have a passion for sharing God's love with children and families. Send resumes to searchteam@bonairbaptist.org and visit www.bonairbaptist.org for a job description.

CHURCH FEW UPHOLSTERY, free estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

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HARRISBURG BAPTIST CHURCH, Tupelo, Miss., is seeking a full-time Director of Harrisburg Day School, a licensed weekday education program for ages eight weeks through kindergarten. Resumes may be sent to Carol Williams, 4675 Cliff Cookin Blvd., Tupelo, MS 38801 or email: cwilliams@harrisburgonline.org. **HOPPER GLASS STUDIO, CUSTOM** church windows, reworking and repair, Columbus/Jackson, (877) 477-1899.

MINISTER OF STUDENTS and Recreation. Submit resume to Chatham Baptist Church, 1500 East Walnut St., Chatham IL. 62629 or jerryweber@insightbb.com.

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BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Jesus Lives for Us

John 20:1-18

By Angie Boydston

What does Easter mean to you? Does it mean rebirth of nature and everything in bloom? Does it mean lots of candy and eggs? Does it mean colorful fashion and white shoes?

The true meaning of Easter often gets lost in these things. The Bible teaches that Jesus rose from the dead — He is ALIVE! This should be the focus of Easter celebrations. Anything less fails to help us learn about and share the greatest thing Jesus does for us — He lives for us.

John 20 gives the account of the empty tomb from some of Jesus' most faithful followers. Verse 1 begins with Mary Magdalene reaching the tomb only to see the stone rolled

away. Her first thought was grave robbers had taken the body of Jesus. She ran to tell Peter and John about the missing body, concerned about where it might have been taken.

When they heard Mary's report, Peter and John raced to the tomb with an urgency to see for themselves. Although John reached the site first, he did not enter the tomb; he just looked in, noticing the linen strips that lay there. When Peter got there, he went right in, observing the burial cloth, which was neatly folded and lying separately from the other linen.

The two men realized that grave robbers were not to blame; they would not have so neatly folded the grave clothes. Peter



Boydston

and John's instantly believed what Jesus had foretold about His death and resurrection. Notice that none of the visitors to the grave immediately thought of the resurrection when they saw the empty tomb. Knowing the tomb was empty did not convince them that He had risen, but it certainly provoked some thinking.

Verse 9 says John did not know from Scripture that Jesus would rise from the dead, but he recognized that the empty grave clothes could only mean one thing. Jesus had not been taken, but had indeed risen. After such a profound discovery, John and Peter then went back to their homes, verse 10 tells us.

Sometimes we are like Peter and John. We know Jesus died for us and rose again. Yet somehow, we do not think about what His being alive means to us. Easter celebrations might stir us, but at the end we simply go back to our

homes, not really comprehending that Jesus is ALIVE!

Mary Magdalene stayed at the tomb, distraught over its being empty. Remember that she had not seen the grave clothes and apparently, Peter and John did not share their revelations with her. In verse 12, she looked into the tomb. Two angels asked why she was crying; she told them her Lord had been taken away. Then she turned and saw Jesus but did not recognize Him.

Jesus also asked why Mary was crying. Both the angels and Jesus had something of a rebuke for Mary when they asked about her emotional state. Mary did not recognize Jesus at the time, whether she was too emotional to realize who He was or He chose to prevent recognition. She asked Him to tell her where the body was taken.

In verse 16, when Jesus called her name, Mary recognized Him. She wanted to cling to Him, but He told her instead to go and share the news with His disciples, His "brothers." Mary

immediately went and told the men that she had seen the Lord.

Mary's reaction was normal, I suppose. If you saw someone you loved very much but thought to be dead, you might want to hold him tightly or keep her to yourself. Christ has shown us this is not the response He desires. We are to tell others the good news — He's alive!

We do not see the disciples' reaction to Mary's news in verse 18. All that mattered was that she fulfilled Jesus' request. In the same way, we are not responsible for how others respond to Jesus being alive. We are simply to tell.

The Easter celebrations around us should do more than make us feel all warm and fuzzy. This time of year should lead each of us to affirm this — the Jesus who lives for us is the reason we share with others who need to know and to believe.

Boydston is Preschool and Children's consultant in the Sunday School Dept., MBCB, and a member of Pinelake Church, Brandon.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Share New Life

Luke 24:1-49

By Ivan Parke

Luke, the physician, notified Theophilus, "Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us... it seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write it out for you in consecutive order" (1:1, 3). What Luke compiled is the longest gospel (1151 verses), containing cherished material that Matthew, Mark, and John do not have: e.g., "Infancy Narratives" (chs. 1-2) and "Galilee to Jerusalem: Discipleship" (9:51-18:14). In 1997, Frank Pollard wrote *Timely Answers to Key Questions*, the Adult Winter Bible Study book that examined ten parables unique to Luke: e.g., "The Good Samaritan" (10:25-37), "The Prodigal Son" (15:11-32), and "The Rich Man and

Lazarus" (16:19-31).

Chapter 24 also preserves "exclusive" material. The final 41 verses record events that no other gospel does: "The Road to Emmaus" (vv. 13-35), "The Appearance of the Risen Christ in Jerusalem" (vv. 36-49), and "The Ascension" (vv. 50-53). The first 49 verses is the Sunday School lesson for Easter.

Overview

Luke 24:1-49 is action-packed: visits to the empty tomb (vv. 1-9, 12), a conversation with angels (vv. 4-8), meetings with the disciples (vv. 10-11, 33-36), and two appearances of the resurrected Jesus (vv. 13-31, 36-49).

Lowlights

Luke 24:1-49 should have chronicled the excitement of Jesus' followers; e.g., counting the hours to Easter Sunday,



Parke

preparing a party to welcome Jesus back from the dead. Instead... [a] The women went to the tomb to prepare a corpse for burial because they had forgotten Jesus' words (v. 8). [b] The eleven did not believe (NO faith) the women who divulged what the angels had said at the tomb (v. 11). [c] Two disciples spent hours with the resurrected Jesus, but failed to recognize Him. Verse 16 does not explain how their eyes "were prevented," a passive voice verb (i.e., unidentified doer of the action). [d] When the resurrected Jesus appeared to the eleven, they panicked AND doubted (vv. 37-38).

Consequently, Luke 24:1-49 documents three rebukes. [a] The angels rightly asked the grieving embalmers, "Why do you seek the living One among the dead?" (v. 5) [b] On the road to Emmaus, Jesus called His traveling companions "foolish men... slow of heart to believe" (v. 25) The Greek adjective, translated "foolish,"

indicates "ignorant, unintelligent, not understanding." [c] In Jerusalem, Jesus questioned the eleven, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?" (v. 38)

Highlights

According to Brevard S. Childs, Professor of Divinity Emeritus at Yale University, "The climax of [Luke's] book comes with the Emmaus story" (Biblical Theology of the Old and New Testaments, 280). Luke 24:1-49 certainly bulges with reasons to rejoice.

[a] The tomb was empty. Three sets of eyewitnesses, angels (vv. 4-7), women (vv. 1-9), and Peter (v. 12), saw nothing (NO body).

[b] Jesus is alive. In Jerusalem, the eleven "thought that they were seeing a spirit" (v. 37), but Jesus responded, "See My hands and My feet... touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have" (v. 39). He had risen bodily.

Luke 24:1-49 verifies the physical aspects of the resurrected Jesus: inside His tomb, just a

linen wrapping (vv. 1-12); at Emmaus, He took, blessed, and broke bread (v. 30); in Jerusalem, He ate broiled fish (vv. 41-43). See also Matthew 28:9; John 20:19-29 and 21:1-14.

[c] Jesus kept His word. At the tomb, an angel announced, "He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said" (Mt. 28:6; see also 24:6-8). Matthew 12:39-40 and 17:9, Mark 9:30-32, Luke 9:22 and 18:31-34, and John 2:22 are earlier references by Jesus to His eventual resurrection.

Believing what God has said appears foolish to the world (see 1 Cor. 1:18-28). His word, being truth, however, vindicates faith.

[d] The Scriptures reveal who Jesus is. The beloved Spiritual inquires, "Were you there when He rose up from the grave?" Blessed with multiple copies of the Scriptures, Christians can do more than imagine. We can know the resurrected Jesus personally without ever seeing Him physically.

Parke is Associate Professor, Dept. of Christian Studies and Philosophy, MC, and a member of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted.



Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the **who, what, when, where** details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

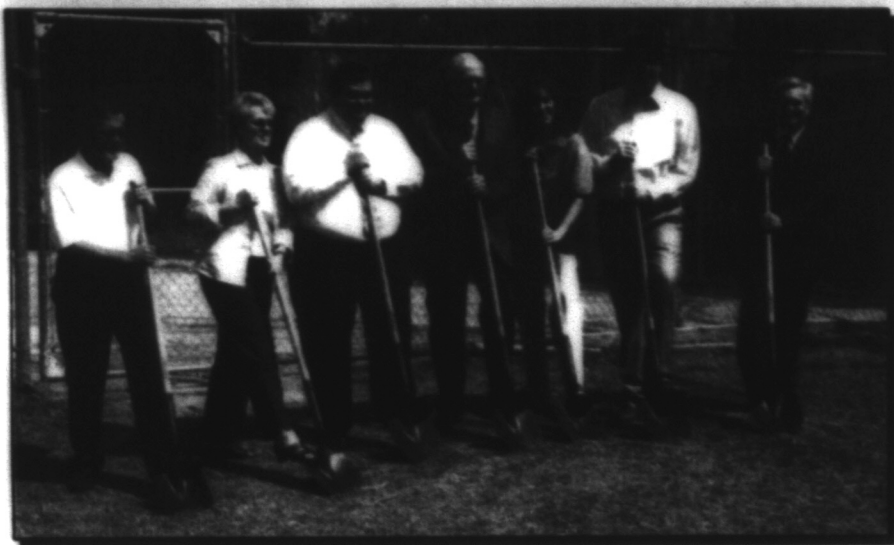
All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to crop-

ping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Groundbreaking Ceremony, First Church, Wiggins

1. **First Church, Wiggins**, broke ground Mar. 11 for their first phase of a Family Life Building. The church celebrated through worship, a groundbreaking service, and dinner on the ground. Over 300 people attended. Shown are participants in the groundbreaking.

2. **Gatesville Church, Crystal Springs**, ordained Jimmy Martin as deacon Mar. 18. Shown are pastor Harold McLendon, Martin, Shirley Martin, and former pastor Matt Armstrong.

3. **Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto**, held a recognition and appreciation service Mar. 25 honoring music director Harry

Joe Martin, who has served for 24 years and pianist Annette Sasser, who has served since 1966. Shown are pastor Trent Bilbo, Tommy Sasser, Sasser, Martin, and Sandra Martin.

4. **First Church, Plantersville**, held its second annual Free Day, during which church members donate clothing, furniture, household items, etc. The community is invited to "shop" for their needs, and everything is free. The church provided help to 178 people. Shown are some of the church members.

5. **Alyssa Avant**, a Christian author and speaker, announces her *Beauty by Design* Ministries for young women

ages four - 18. The ministry focuses on building empowerment, inward beauty, confidence, and poise and is based on biblical principles. She offers an array of services from themed party planning to public speaking for church events.

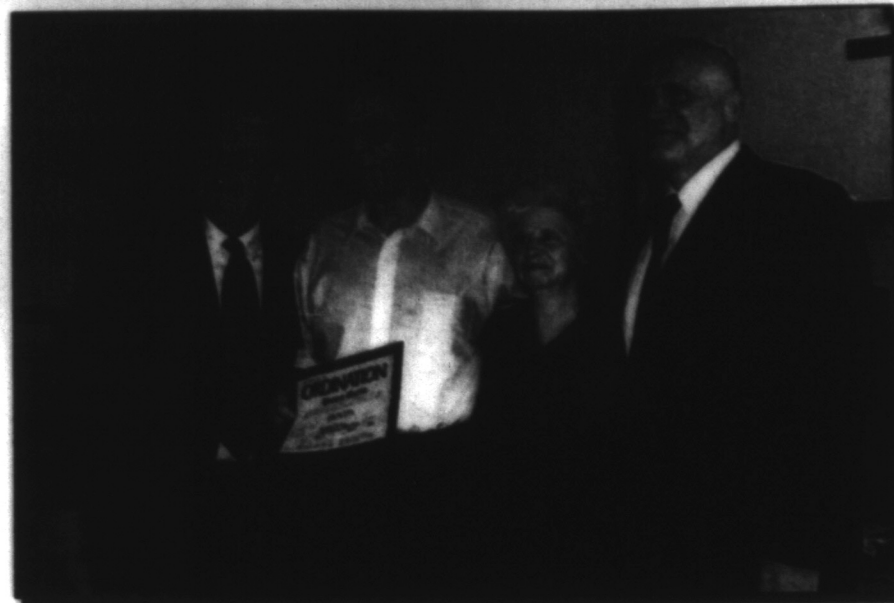
5. Avant

For more information, call (662) 237-4169 or visit www.beautybydesignonline.com.

6. **Crossgates Church, Brandon** will present *Extreme Makeover - Home Edition* Apr. 8 at 8, 9:30, and 11 a.m. For more information, call (601) 825-2562 or visit www.crossgates.org.

7. **First Church, Soso**, will present *Walking in His Footsteps*, a multimedia journey through Jesus' last week, Apr. 5 - 6, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and 6 - 8 p.m. daily. The walk-through event takes about 40 minutes to complete. For more information, call (601) 729-8805 or (601) 729-8812.

8. **Brandon Church, Brandon**: Peter Lord, *Deeper Life Conference*, Apr. 15 - 18; Sun., 9, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., noon - 12:50 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.; lunch served with volunteer donation.



2. Deacon Ordination, Gatesville Church, Crystal Springs



3. Martin and Sasser Recognized, Calvary Church, Bogue Chitto



4. First Church, Plantersville, Free Day

DVD distribution upsets Mormons

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Evangelicals in Utah intended the distribution of more than 350,000 DVDs disputing the claims of Mormonism as a legitimate act of concern for their neighbors who don't know Jesus as Savior, but the outreach effort was viewed by Mormons as an act of disrespect for their religion.

Hundreds of volunteers across the state hung the DVDs on doorknobs March 25 in white plastic bags that said, Good News for LDS, and others were handed out after a Utah Jazz basketball game that night. The DVDs, which use historical evidence to make the case that Mormonism is a non-Christian cult, were written and produced by LaBarge Media in New York for Tri-Grace Ministries in Utah.

Tri-Grace, a Christian organization founded by a former Mormon, invited Southern Baptist churches to help distribute the DVDs, and many Southern Baptist volunteers agreed to help. Tim Clark, executive director of the Utah-Idaho Southern Baptist Convention, told Baptist Press.

"Officially, this was not a Utah-Idaho project. It wasn't part of our strategy," Clark said, adding that the convention's Evangelism Response

Center (ERC) has been taking calls from people who watched the DVD and want to ask questions or make a profession of faith in Jesus.

Clark helped put some of the DVDs into plastic bags for distribution on Sunday, but he told BP he was volunteering his time as an individual, not as executive director of the state convention.

"I believe it's important because we live in one of the most lost places in America even though it's the most church state in the union," Clark said. "The Mormons so highly revere the Book of Mormon and Joseph Smith that it's just an opportunity for us to get them to perhaps call into question their belief system."

Though the DVD made the case for Christ as the only way to God using documented history, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints said the production contained many inaccuracies and was not balanced.

"No good will come from debating doctrine with those whose intention is to disprove and degrade the scriptures we have," Bishop Barlow of the Santaquin Second Ward, said in an official response March 25. "The sole purpose of this DVD is to distort what our leaders stand for and what

they testify of. I threw my copy in the trash, where I feel it belongs."

Barlow reiterated to his church members that "Joseph Smith is a Prophet of God who saw and spoke with God the Father and His Son. The Book of Mormon is truly a testament of Christ and gives an account of what happened on the American Continent."

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST FOUNDATION Scholarship Ministry

The apostle Paul expressed confidence in his Lord when he declared, "And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19). This well-known verse highlights the focus of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation's Scholarship Ministry.

Due to the generosity of many faithful Christian stewards, the Foundation has the privilege of providing needs-based supplemental financial assistance to Mississippi students who are pursuing a degree at a Mississippi Baptist college or a Southern Baptist seminary. Most of these endowed scholarship accounts offer specific eligibility guidelines for awarding a scholarship grant. Factors such as field of study, institution attended, and scholarship amount often are included as stipulated criteria for award consideration.

For more information about the Mississippi Baptist Foundation Scholarship Ministry, please contact our office at PO Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, telephone us at (601) 292-3210 or (800) 748-1651, or visit our website, www.msbaftisfoundation.org. A completed application must be received in the MBF office by April 30.

